

TGWU ballot returns 'altered by order'

By Keith Harper,
Labour Editor

A Transport and General Workers' Union scrutineer who was involved in the ballot for the union's new general secretary has claimed that he deliberately altered the London ballot returns under instruction from a senior union official in order to make up for discrepancies in the returns.

The scrutineer, Mr Bert Anstice, has alleged that a number of irregularities occurred during the ballot. His claims will increase pressure for a rebalot at today's meeting.

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ing between the present general secretary, Mr Moss Evans, and the defeated candidate for the succession, Mr George Wright.

Mr Anstice claimed that he had been instructed by Mr Sid Staden, the TGWU London regional secretary, to alter a number of papers which are used to note returns from the

branches if there was any discrepancy between the actual returns and the expected number.

He said that he had been asked to alter the returns of the ballot, and that the total number of alterations carried out by other scrutineers must have been between 70 and 80.

The allegedly altered figures described the total number of votes cast, not those for individual candidates.

Mr Anstice yesterday wrote to Mr Evans detailing his complaints and asking for a rebalot. He said he was convinced that a number of irregularities had occurred, and that a rebalot was required to clear the TGWU's name.

Mr Staden, who is attending the Scottish TPC, said last night that Mr Anstice was lying, and that no such irregularities had occurred.

He conceded, however, that some changes might have been made but insisted that they would only have involved small numbers.

"When they do the count in certain areas you can get a short variation in the figure from the branches to that which we have in the region. It seems to me you have to accept that there can be differences and the amounts have to be tallied. But I repeat - we are only talking about small numbers."

Mr Evans last night refuted any suggestion of improper conduct at the regional count, the largest in the TGWU with just under 400,000 members.

He said that Mr Staden was a member of the union and that the union would consider the allegations and take all steps to ensure redress. This could include an inspection of the branch and regional returns by an independent scrutineer.

Several TGWU regional secretaries to whom the Guardian spoke last night were of the opinion that the branch returns should not be altered by the regional scrutineers. If there is a wide discrepancy between the membership figures held by the region and those returned in the branch ballot, then those votes should be declared void.

Mr Anstice, a convenor at the Pfizer pharmaceutical company in Sandwich, Kent, until his retirement three weeks ago, has been a member of the TGWU's London regional committee for seven years, and a member of the union for almost 30 years. He resigned from the Labour Party four years ago, and is now an SDP.

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Sunni Muslim authority damaged in fierce fighting with Shi'ites

Lebanon in crisis as PM resigns

From David Hirst
in Beirut

The Prime Minister of Lebanon, Mr Rashid Karami, yesterday resigned, plunging Lebanon into the gravest political and constitutional crisis it has yet faced.

All eyes are now focused on the Syrian Government in Damascus, which - as Karami hinted in his resignation statement - alone can save the country from what all see as its final disintegration.

Announcing Mr Karami's decision, the state-run Beirut Radio said that he had agreed to stay on temporarily as head of a caretaker team after consultations with President Amin Gemayel.

Whatever the immediate outcome, the latest convulsion is a formidable challenge to President Assad, who has invested a

great deal into the stabilisation of the country. He will feel all the more impelled to stop the rot in that he sees the machinations of his bitter enemy, the PLO chairman, Mr Yasser Arafat, behind it.

Mr Karami's resignation came after a night of fierce clashes between rival Sunni and Shi'ite militias operating in mainly Muslim West Beirut. After months of growing

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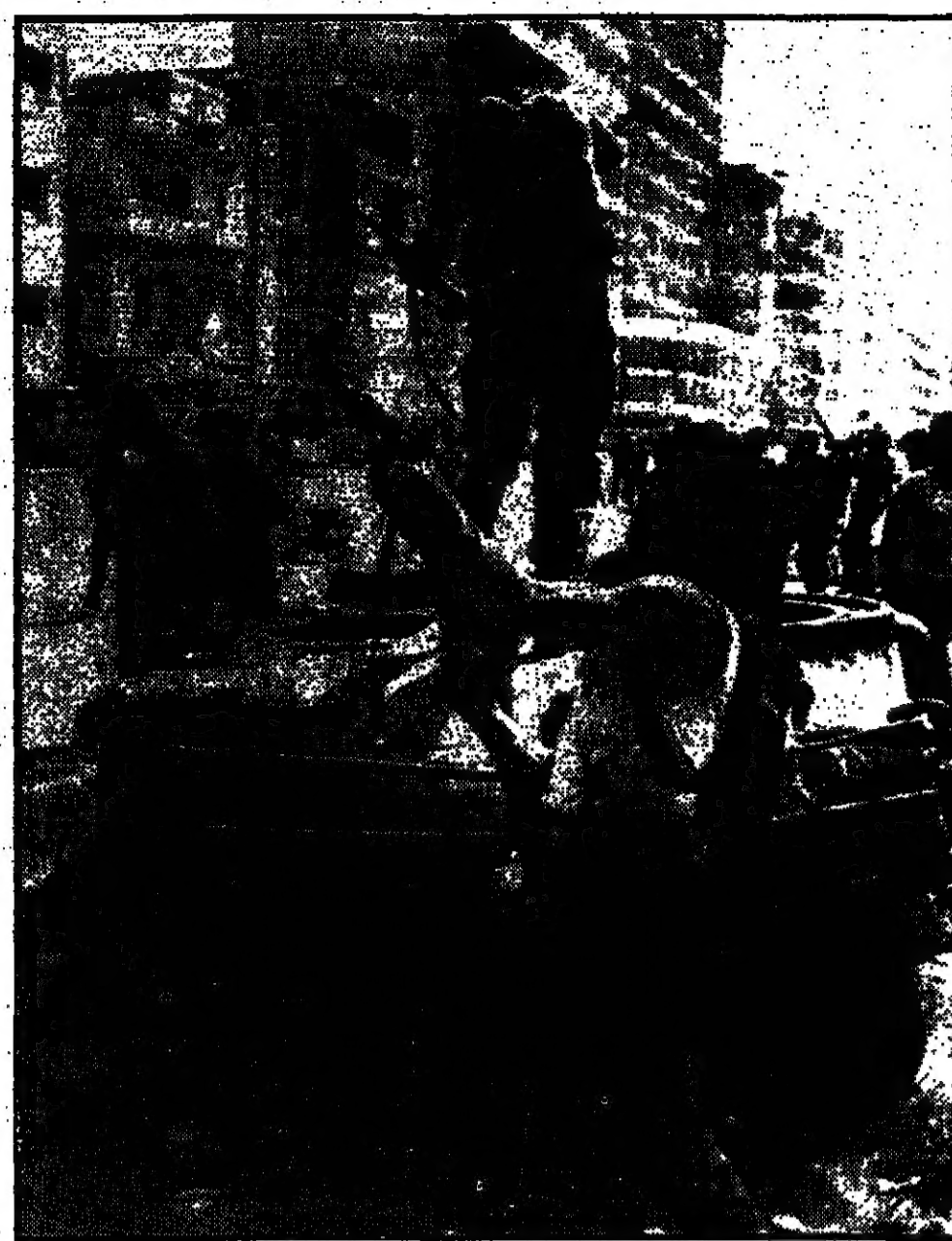
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A Shi'ite Muslim Amal fighter fires his Kalashnikov machinegun in a Beirut street to celebrate his militia's victory

IMF fears for economy and puts blame on US

From Washington

The International Monetary Fund yesterday cautioned against moves to pump growth in the leading industrial countries, including Britain, despite new projections indicating

decisions in economic output over the next two years.

In its world economic outlook report presented to finance ministers meeting in Washington yesterday, the IMF predicted that growth in the industrial countries will tumble from 4.9 per cent in 1984 to 3.1 per cent this year, and to 2.8 per cent next year.

It offered little encouragement on prospects for the unemployed in Europe, noting that the best that could be hoped for was a stabilisation of recent increases.

Among the main reasons for the IMF's concern about the world economy is an expected steep slowdown in American growth rates. It projects that US growth will be cut by half from 6.5 per cent to 3.4 per cent this year, and that this will be accompanied by a less severe cut in output in other industrial countries.

The IMF places the blame for the problems of the world economy on the shoulders of the Reagan Administration. It argues that while there have been some short-term benefits from the US boom, in terms of the dollar's value and the balance of payments, there have been "undesirable effects, particularly in the field of interest rates and exchange rate developments and the absorption of savings from abroad."

It warns that these problems could become even worse over the longer term, widening the economic divide between Washington and its European and Japanese allies.

Despite its generally gloomy outlook, the IMF warns Europe against taking a leaf out of the American book and seeking to stimulate growth through fiscal expansion and looser monetary policies.

It would be a mistake to jeopardise confidence in the recovery in Europe and Japan by trying to force the pace of expansion, the IMF economists say, although it sees the possibility of a moderate easing of fiscal policies in countries with high unemployment.

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Winfrith nuclear pipeline causes concern

By Alan Rusbridger

THE AUTHORITIES in charge of Winfrith nuclear power station in Dorset are privately concerned about the state of the plant's radioactive waste disposal pipeline, according to confidential documents sent to the Guardian.

Worries about the condition of the pipeline were raised by Mr David Sharpe of the Central Electricity Generating Board's systems strategy building generation section, who chaired a meeting at the CEBG headquarters last October.

The meeting considered the long-term possibility of the CEBG building a PWR (pressurised water reactor) plant at Winfrith, which already has a heavy water reactor, subject to the result of the Sizewell inquiry.

The CEBG is considering whether to share the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority's existing 25-year old pipeline, which carries waste into an inlet called Arish Well, near Lulworth Cove, or build its own.

The minutes note: "Mr Sharpe reported that although UKAEA's public stance was that they were satisfied about the condition of their active effluent pipeline, privately they were more worried. They had surveyed their line and were apparently concerned about its condition."

Parents claim that the child leukaemia rate in villages near Winfrith is more than 10 times the national average - a claim treated with scepticism by local medical authorities.

A mother of a nine-year-old child with the disease, Mrs Cathy Cook, has collected 5,000 signatures calling for a public inquiry into the safety aspects of the operation. Protesters discussed their fears with the shadow energy secretary, Mr Ted Rowlands, in Dorset last night.

A spokesman for the UKAEA at Winfrith said he thought the CEBG minutes must be in the context of the CEBG's future plans. "We're very happy with it - there is no problem."

Asked about the CEBG's claim that the Winfrith authorities had not revealed their concern about the pipeline to the public, the spokesman said: "I can't comment on that."

A CEBG spokesman said he thought the minutes referred to concerns about the state the pipeline would be in by the time a PWR reactor might be built.

Dockyard switch to private sector attacked

By David Simpson and
Colin Brown

Trade unionists and Opposition MPs condemned the Government's plans for the Royal Dockyards yesterday after the Defence Secretary, Mr Michael Heseltine, confirmed that the management of the two yards is to be contracted out to private firms. More than 2,000 jobs will first be axed from the 20,000 workforce.

Mr Heseltine also failed to win the outright support of his own backbench and came under fire from the former navy minister, Mr Keith Speed, in Parliament, page 6

the Tory MP for Ashford, who said that he would press for the dockyards to be retained within the public sector under trading fund status.

Up to 15 per cent of the 13,000 employees at the Devonport dock near Plymouth and 5 per cent of the 67,400 employees at Rosyth dock in Fife will lose their jobs over the next two years, Mr Heseltine told the Commons.

This will mean about 2,000 redundancies at Devonport, the Defence Secretary said, and 600 at Rosyth, although at a later press conference he amended the number of jobs to be lost at Rosyth to 350.

Leaders of the industrial and non-industrial unions at the two dockyards pledged themselves to oppose both redundancies and the commercial management proposals.

Shop stewards at Rosyth met today and there will be a mass meeting of all workers tomorrow while the Devonport local campaign committee also meet today to consider possible action.

The future structure of the yards, which are responsible for £400 million per annum of refitting and maintenance of the Royal Navy fleet was set out in a consultative document. The Government made it clear that it is committed to a third option, contracting out the management of the yards to private firms.

Opposition MPs reacted with anger to Mr Heseltine's statement that responses to the document must be submitted within 10 weeks and that the process of changing the status of the dockyards will be set in train before the summer parliamentary recess.

The SDP leader, Dr David Owen, who is MP for Devonport, described the brevity of the consultative period

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Smear test 'ban'

A CERVICAL smear testing programme for under-25s was rejected by Mr John Patten, the junior health minister, yesterday despite growing demands and evidence of risk. Back page.

S. Africa tour

MR LESLIE Blazey, the Ne Zealand Rugby Football Union chairman, announcing yesterday that the All Blacks would ignore protests and tour South Africa. Report, back page; David Frost and Australian cricketers, page 24.

Drug cash move

DRUG dealers will have to explain their assets or lose them under proposals before the Home Office. Page 2.

Aid block denied

NIGERIA yesterday denied blocking food aid to Chad, where famine victims are dying at a rate of 1,000 a month. Page 8.

Air jobs axed

THE holiday bookings slump and "unfair competition" has forced Britannia Airways to axe 350 jobs. Page 22.

Chopped pork

A BAN on British raw pork has become a bone of contention in trade talks with Japan. Page 22.

TV action

TV CAMERA crews were criticised yesterday for taking part in an attack on a strike breaker. Page 2.

Pickets arrested

NINETY-SIX people were arrested in Brisbane yesterday for picketing against anti-union laws. Page 7.

Nacods ballot

THE Pit deputies' union, Nacods, is to ballot its 15,000 members on an overtime ban to protest against colliery closure plans. Page 2.

Contra position

DESPITE urging a negotiated solution in Nicaragua, America is said to be planning to double "contra" rebel forces. Page 7.

The weather

MOSTLY dry and sunny. Details: back page.

THE GUARDIAN IN EUROPE

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Vienna	25-26		
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Princess to 'clear father with documents'



"I shall be in the disused air raid shelter at the bottom of the garden until the all clear goes."

By John Eard
Documents said to exonerate Princess Michael of Kent's father of Nazi guilt will be made publicly available after they reach Britain, it was promised yesterday.

The documents, which include Baron Gunther von Reibnitz's de Nascation papers, are being hastily assembled and sent by her mother from Australia. The princess's private secretary, Colonel Michael Farmer, said last night: "Some of them will have to be translated from German. This might take a day or so, but they will all be available to anyone who wants to see them."

Other relevant papers are on their way from Germany. Princess Michael said in an interview televised yesterday that one document states quite clearly that his position with SS was an honorary position.

She added: "He never served for the SS, he never wore the uniform to which it

is true he was entitled, I hope as soon as I get the documents to prove that his role was virtually negligible. But nonetheless it is a dreadful thing and I shall have to live with it... it is like suddenly discovering that you are adopted."

However, the veteran war criminal hunter Simon Weisenthal called the claim of honorary status "absolutely unbelievable." Speaking at the Jewish Documentation Centre, which he has run in Vienna since shortly after the war, he said: "Princess Michael's claim that he was never given senior ranks such as general."

Men of the rank of Baron von Reibnitz, who rose from Untersturmfuehrer in 1934 to Sturmbannfuhrer (major) in 1940, would not have been honorary members. If he had merely held honorary rank he would not have been put in charge of staff."

According to Mr Weisenthal, records show that in 1937 the baron was an SS staff member

in the Oberabschnitt Suedost, a section covering Silesia, which is now part of Poland.

Members of the royal family kept studiously silent about the issue at public engagements yesterday.

The Duke of Edinburgh was asked to comment by an American TV reporter at an exorcism of the appeal in London. He answered cheerfully: "You must be joking. I do not want to talk about that."

Princess Michael spent the day at home at Kensington Palace, with no public duties. During the interview pre-recorded on Tuesday and shown on yesterday's TV-am, she said emphatically that she felt no resentment that the sins of a father were being visited on a daughter. "No, I think it is perfectly natural," she said. "Maybe that would be my reaction too. I don't like it, but I understand it."

She disclosed that when she phoned her mother after being told of the story, she had said:

words to the effect of: "I guess what they are trying to pin on me now." Her mother replied: "But I am afraid it is true."

Princess Michael added: "It was a total shock to everything I have been brought up to believe. But my shoulders are broad and I shall have to carry it."

"I have been brought up, you know, to believe that the SS meant one thing, basically concentration camps for Jews and so on. I have now discovered that he was not involved in anything like that at all. So I am relieved. But it is a deep shame for me."

Her husband, she said, had been "extremely supportive and as devastated as I am... It is like suddenly discovering that you are adopted. What the public's perception of me will be I don't know. I hope that they will judge me on my own performance... or what I am and what I stand for."

Princess Michael's BBC in court, back page.

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Ex-Pc 'wrongly gaoled for killing'

A former policeman was gaoled for a killing he did not commit, a Manchester Crown Court jury heard yesterday.

Noel Fellowes served four years of a seven year sentence for the manslaughter of an elderly coin dealer who was strangled by bonds his attacker used to tie him.

The conviction was described by the prosecution as a tragic mistake because another man had since admitted tying up the coin dealer after a fight.

Mrs Helen Grindrod QC, prosecuting, said that William Clark told detectives: "I am told a man called Fellowes was convicted for this, but he did not have any part in it... I do not know anyone by that name."

Clark, aged 36, of Station Street, Openshaw, Manchester, denies the manslaughter of Mr Harold Parkinson, who was found dead at his home in Overton, near Morecambe, 15 years ago.

A month after the killing Mr Fellowes, now a successful businessman in Berkshire, was arrested, charged with murder but was convicted of manslaughter.

"The Crown now say to you that that was a tragic mistake," Mrs Grindrod told the jury. "Clark was the man who went into Mr Parkinson's home — his motive was theft — and he tied him up and caused his death."

She said that as Mr Parkinson, aged 67, struggled to free himself his bonds tightened and strangled him. "Whoever tied him up is guilty of manslaughter," she said. The investigation into the killing was reopened last year. Clark, it was alleged, admitted going to Mr Parkinson's home to steal. A fight began when Mr Parkinson surprised the intruder.

"We were fighting for a while and then he just went on the floor and was gasping for breath," Clark is alleged to have told police. "I had to tie him up so he couldn't follow me."

The trial continues today.

Ballot rigging escapes Tory grip over unions

AS CONCERN over ballot rigging in the transport and general workers' unions grows, accusations are flying, mainly from Dr David Owen, that the Government's legislation on executive elections and political fund ballots will do nothing to deal with the problem.

Embarrassment is real in Government circles as Conservative backbenchers realise that their magnificent edifice, the Trade Union Act, has a host of structural faults.

However, the Government in its defence, never intended to deal with simple ballot adding through the act. The act was intended to be a means of encouraging participation on elections by increasing the number of ballots, and by making it easier to vote. As Mr John Gummer, the Employment Minister, told the Commons standing committee: "The bill is not concerned primarily to avoid malpractices in trade unions. Its primary concern is to ensure that trade unions provide a democratic framework in which their members are given the right to control their unions."

Nor was the act intended to deal with full-time union officials, such as general secretaries. The green paper outlining the act said a

union's needs "are better served by selecting a general secretary by appointment on the basis of his experience and expertise, rather than by election from within the union on the basis of popular support."

As a result the law has no application whatsoever to the election of the general secretary for the Transport Union. Only general secretaries who have votes on the main executive committee of the union come under the act's provisions. Most general secretaries, including the Transport Union's, do not have a vote. A notable exception is the general secretary of the General and Municipal Workers Union.

The main thrust is directed at key executive members who are considered to be the real source of power within a union. The act specifies that these executive members must be elected every five years by an individual secret ballot.

Such elections are not mandatory. A legal obligation occurs only if a union member brings an action. Moreover, the decisions of an executive which is not elected in compliance with the act are not thereby rendered void until a successful legal action is brought.

After an eleventh hour rebellion in the Lords, the Government tightened up its provisions on the method of



ballotting. It ruled that all ballots should be held by post unless a union reasonably believed that it could not do so. The act also incorporates the virtues of a postal ballot, namely a ballot held in secrecy, without interference by the union and without direct cost to the union member.

The act states that a work-

Executive elections were target of the Trade Union Act and the new law is vague on rules for vote counting. Patrick Wintour views the cracks in the Government's legislation

place ballot must be held immediately before, after, or during working hours at the member's place of work or at a place which is more convenient to him. Thus, it is not enough to have a ballot box that is at a workplace of some members and convenient to others. The ballot box will have to be available around the clock.

An earlier act requires employers to provide premises for the ballot so long as the union in question is recognised by the employer. Disruptive campaigning however may be prohibited by the employer.

There is nothing in the act either in relation to postal or workplace ballots dealing with the method of

distributing, collecting or counting ballot papers. The act merely states "the result of the election is determined solely by counting the number of votes cast directly for each candidate by those voting." It also states that the votes given at an election must be fairly and accurately counted. The act does not provide for independent counting of votes.

In resisting compulsory postal ballots, Lord Gower argued in the Lords that such a proposal would force the Government to set up a new body to supervise these elections and that this in turn would give the unions a focus for a "boycott campaign" similar to the one conducted by unions against the national industrial relations court in 1972.

A union member can apply either to the High Court or the Certification Officer, the government officer who oversees trade unions, for a declaration that there has been a breach of executive elections requirements. The member must apply within a year of the result being declared. The Certification Officer's role is largely that of a conciliator. He can only state there has been a breach and cannot make an enforcement order. If the Certification Officer rules against a member, application can still be made to the High Court.

In making an order the court can force the election to be re-run and, if felt necessary, order an independently supervised postal ballot.

If the court order is not obeyed, any member can apply to the court for enforcement. Further defiance by the union will rapidly lead to the familiar cycle of contempt and sequestration.

The Government said in standing committee that it did not intend that a union member should be able to prevent an election going ahead. In the current issue of the Industrial Law Journal, Mr Richard Kidner argues that "for all practical purposes pre-election relief will not be obtainable."

Some lawyers argue that the act gives union members new rights to complain to the courts over electoral malpractices in that it states that votes must be fairly and accurately counted, but union members already have the right to seek common law redress for breach of rule at an election.

Voting regulations for political fund ballots match those of union executive elections, but except that the union must submit to the Certification Officer the rules for the conduct of the ballot. Once approved, they automatically become the rules of the union.

Leader comment, page 12

Ultrasound pregnancy tests 'not as safe as reported'

By Penny Choriton

There is no firm evidence to support a key report which says that ultrasound testing during pregnancy is either effective or without risk, an international symposium in London was told yesterday.

The report, by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, concluded last December that the tests were safe enough to be used routinely.

However, Mrs Beverley Beech, the chairwoman of the Association for Improvements to Maternity Services, said yesterday: "What disturbs me is that follow-up research in health authorities since that report was published shows that there are risks associated with ultrasound testing, whereas we produced a 14-page report showing how the RCOG report

was an attempt to mislead the public, justify obstetric fashion and is, therefore, inconclusive and unscientific."

Doctor Robert Mole, the former director of the Medical Research Council's radiobiology unit at Harwell, said he did not see why the RCOG had not mentioned a survey published last year which showed that there was a fourfold increase in cancer among children aged over six years old, whose mothers had had ultrasound testing during pregnancy, compared with those who had not.

The criticisms were made at the multidisciplinary conference at the Royal Society of Medicine, which heard that obstetricians should consult with ultrasound scanning until conclusive evidence on its efficacy and safety was produced.

Mrs Beech said that routine

testing was widespread although government policy was for such pregnancy scanning to be offered only to women with complications.

It is thought that the RCOG did not believe the link between cancer in children and ultrasound testing had been proved. But Mrs Beech said that "the RCOG was very selective in the material it chose to look at" for its report.

Nurses, doctors, obstetricians, and midwives all gave examples of how ultrasound testing could be improved. Examples were given of how women had been misinformed, unnecessarily alarmed and often anything but reassured by the ultrasound test.

One woman had been told: "We can't find the baby's head; come back next week," said Nancy Stewart, of Aims.

Tories scent election victory in 7 counties

By John Carvel, Local Government Correspondent

Ministers claimed yesterday that the Conservatives will win power from Labour in Lancashire, Cumbria, Humberside, Avon and South Gloucestershire at the shire county elections on May 2. They also predicted victory in Cheshire and Berkshire, where no party emerged with outright control in 1981.

Mr John Gummer, the party chairman, Mr Patrick Jenkin, the Environment Secretary, and Mr Kenneth Baker, the industry minister, were speaking at a press conference at the start of the last fortnight of the election campaign.

The event demonstrated the continuing division within the Conservative Party over important local government issues. The ministers shared a platform at Tory central offices with Mr Lewis Moss, leader of the Conservative group, on the Association of County Councils.

Mr Moss acknowledged that the shire county Tories did not support the government's rate-capping policy.

He also said that the local Conservatives would like council spending targets abolished, although Mr Jenkin said that he

too would like to see the targets go. "This is a matter on which I am not yet ready to go to the local authority associations. I will do so over the next couple of months," Mr Jenkin said.

The Tories' campaign theme is that Conservative-controlled councils give better value for money. Mr Jenkin quoted a series of figures such as the costs per head of social services administration which is \$4.75 in Tory Lincolnshire, \$6.28 in the Liberal Isle of Wight, and \$8.25 in Labour Nottinghamshire.

Mr Baker said that average rate poundages are 178p in the pound in Labour-controlled areas, 156p in coalition-controlled areas and only 148p in Tory-controlled areas.

Mr Jenkin said that reform of the rating system had become imperative. "Whether we legislate before the next election or produce proposals for after the election is a decision the Cabinet will have to take."

Michael Morris adds: The Ecology Party, founded in 1973 as Britain's first Green party, is to field more than 250 candidates in the elections, slightly fewer than in 1981, but the party claims the total is proportionately more, since last time most candidates stood in metropolitan areas, whereas elections will not be taking place.

The party has one county council member, in Cornwall, and another 40 elected representatives on town, parish, and community councils.

Drivers bar deliveries to hospital

By John Ardill, Labour Correspondent

Drivers employed by the Newcastle upon Tyne health authority yesterday began an indefinite ban on all but essential deliveries to the Royal Victoria Infirmary teaching hospital, and its associated dental hospital.

The authority said last night that the ban, if maintained, would have a serious effect on patient care and admissions at the RVI and other hospitals in the city.

The 24 drivers are supporting about 300 domestic staff at the infirmary who will stage a three to five-day strike next week over privatisation plans. Half or full-day stoppages by all but nursing and medical staff at hospitals in the Tyne and Wear area are also expected next week.

The action coincides with a week-long national focus on NHS privatisation, which the TUC will launch on Monday.

The health authority confirmed last night that drivers had begun boycotting the RVI yesterday, but said it was expecting unions to review the decision today.

An official of the National Union of Public Employees said the ban was indefinite and that all NHS drivers in the northern region were being asked to support it.

The domestic strike, a repeat of one a fortnight ago, is designed to persuade private sector cleaning companies to drop their tenders for the RVI contract.

Mr Phil Lenton, a Nuppe assistant divisional officer, said the staff would not work for contractors. Without the existing staff's knowledge of a rabbit warren of a hospital, contractors would not be able to cope.

Mr Lenton said he understood a majority of firms invited to tender for the RVI contract had already withdrawn.

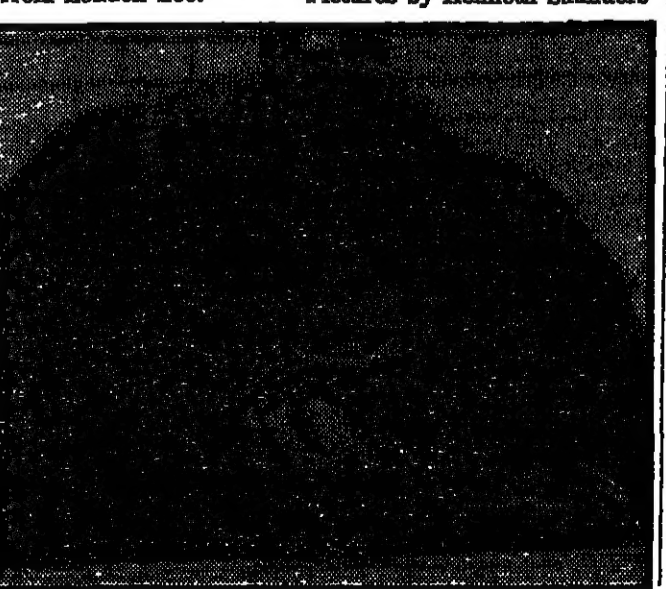
The authority said it always invited an express of tenders to allow for withdrawal. It still had four tenders for the RVI, which was sufficient to work on, and had invited nine tenders for Newcastle General Hospital, expecting to end up with four or five. The withdrawal took place before industrial action started.

Wildlife park

In the Guardian of April 15 it was reported that Westbury Wildlife Park had been refused a licence under a new zoo inspection system. A report on the park was brought before the last meeting of the Bristol city council public protection committee, but a decision was deferred until the next meeting on May 2.



High spot: A bemused orang utan (below) watches yesterday as Zara, an 11-month-old giraffe, arrives at Chessington Zoo, Surrey. She was transferred there from London Zoo. Pictures by Kenneth Saunders



Clergy attack grant-aid clairvoyant

CLERGYMEN yesterday urged a clairvoyant to abandon her practice after she held a bizarre ceremony to open her studio which is financed with the help of a \$40 a week Government grant.

Suzanne Wallace, aged 22, has also received poison pen letters.

Miss Wallace, who uses the name Scheherazade, invited a white witch, Alan Bishop to "bless" the studio in Southport, Lancashire. During the

ritual, he burnt ancient parchments and spread ashes.

The vicar of St Helens, the Rev. Chris Woods, who burnt occult literature last Halloween, said: "White magic and black magic are equally unpleasant to God. The Bible is absolutely straight on the subject."

The assistant Bishop of Liverpool, the Rt. Rev. Bill Flagg, said: "I don't believe

GCHQ dilemma as staff rejoin unions

By Richard Norton-Taylor

GCHQ management says that it does not know how many officials at the government's intelligence-gathering centre based at Cheltenham have rejoined their unions after quitting in return for £1,000.

Mr Donald Chidgey, a GCHQ personnel officer, has written to five officials saying that their decision to rejoin unions is in breach of conditions of service. That state of affairs cannot continue he has told them.

For some of the officials, the 10-day deadline set by the management for reply has passed, but Mr Chidgey would not be drawn yesterday on what action would be taken. Management is in something of a dilemma — it cannot be seen to do nothing, yet it knows that dismissals would provoke further industrial strife in the Civil Service.

One solution would be to use the recent decision by the Council of Civil Service Unions to take the union ban to the European Commission for Human Rights as a reason to delay any drastic action. However, cases can take months or years to be heard.

The five officials to whom

Mr Chidgey has written have told management that they have rejoined their unions. Another 45 have done so without informing management, according to GCHQ trade unions, which say they have about 100 members. Management says that according to its records, only 50 officials are now holding out against the Government's ban.

The five officials have been told by their unions to respond by saying that they want to continue working at GCHQ while retaining their union membership.

GCHQ management is also understood to be preparing to introduce the polygraph or lie detector as an experiment in the autumn after the staff association — set up to replace unions — is consulted. The original plan was to start using the polygraph in Cheltenham last spring, shortly after the Government imposed its first deadline for ending union membership.

The polygraph has since been roundly criticised, not only by GCHQ staff, but by the Commons employment committee, backbench MPs on both sides of the house and by the British Psychological Society.

Cinderellas at the polys

By Andrew Moneur, Education Staff

Women lecturers are still falling to win jobs and places on decision-making committees at polytechnics and colleges.

A survey of 130 colleges in London and the South-east with a total of nearly 2,000 women staff shows that previous few have climbed to senior posts.

Only three occupy principal's chairs and nine are vice-principals. A further 35 have head of department jobs. The great majority are working on the two lowest scales as lecturers.

The survey reveals that women are also relatively badly represented on internal college committees. It shows that 117 women sit on government bodies (compared with 471 men) 319 women are on academic boards (1,288 men); and 330 serve on faculty boards (1,136 men).

The survey was carried out for the Further Education for Women Committee, chaired by Mrs Pamela Morton, who works in computing science at Thames Valley Polytechnic — as a course tutor.

The Women's National Commission, a government advisory body, yesterday launched an £80,000 programme to encourage more women into jobs such as plumbing, electrical work, printing and "hands-on" computing.

The programme includes two-day training road shows in ten towns and cities over the next eight months.

The first roadshow is at Plymouth next week.

Women's Training Roadshow, Women's National Commission, Government Offices, Great George Street, London SW1P 3AG.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Speaker has mumps

Mr Bernard Weatherill (above), Speaker of the House of Commons, has mumps and will not be able to take the chair for the remainder of the week.

A spokesman from his office said: "Mr Weatherill believes he caught it from his grandchildren over Easter. He hopes to be back in harness next week."

Mr Weatherill sat beside Princess Margaret at the Windsor state banquet for the visiting President of Malawi on Tuesday night, but her spokesman said the news would not affect her planned trip to Hungary today.

Police hunt airport gems

THE disappearance of gems worth £150,000 from the luggage hold of a plane is being investigated by detectives at Gatwick airport.

A wooden case containing the jewellery was loaded on to a British Caledonia aircraft at Charles de Gaulle airport in Paris last Wednesday, but when the plane landed at Gatwick, it was missing.

Man dies of burns

A MAN who set fire to himself with petrol died in hospital yesterday. Brian Shawcross, aged 49, resided 90 per cent burns outside his home in Kent Avenue, Stockport, Greater Manchester.

Mr Shawcross, a council driver, had failed to appear in court to answer charges of failing to provide a breath specimen and reckless driving. It is understood his wife left him a week ago and letters were found in his house. An inquest will be held.

Kray wins injunction

REGINALD Kray has been granted an indefinite High Court injunction stopping a woman publishing letters he wrote to her from Parkhurst Prison on the Isle of Wight.

Gill Gibson, aged 28, from Hendon, Sunderland, had wanted to sell the letters to national newspapers.

After hearing that he had won the injunction Kray said from Parkhurst: "The woman came to visit me a couple of times but is a total stranger really. The sole topic of conversation when we met was her home town of Sunderland which I know nothing about."

"However, she is putting me in a compromising position and I would not tolerate having my confidence betrayed by someone I hardly know."

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Vacancies exist for the September term for children aged 13 and over.

Fees for boarders are currently £1288 per term but the Government sponsored ASSISTED PLACES SCHEME will provide up to 50% of this, depending upon parent income. Prospects and full particulars from our Bureau (telephone 0830 6232). Applications should be submitted by 15th May.

FORT AUGUSTUS ABBEY SCHOOL, FORT AUGUSTUS, INVERNESS-SHIRE

Preaching protest

By Martyn Halsall, Churches Correspondent

Meetings conducted by the American evangelist, Dr Billy Graham, should not be screened at a US nuclear bomber base in Suffolk, Christian CND said last night.

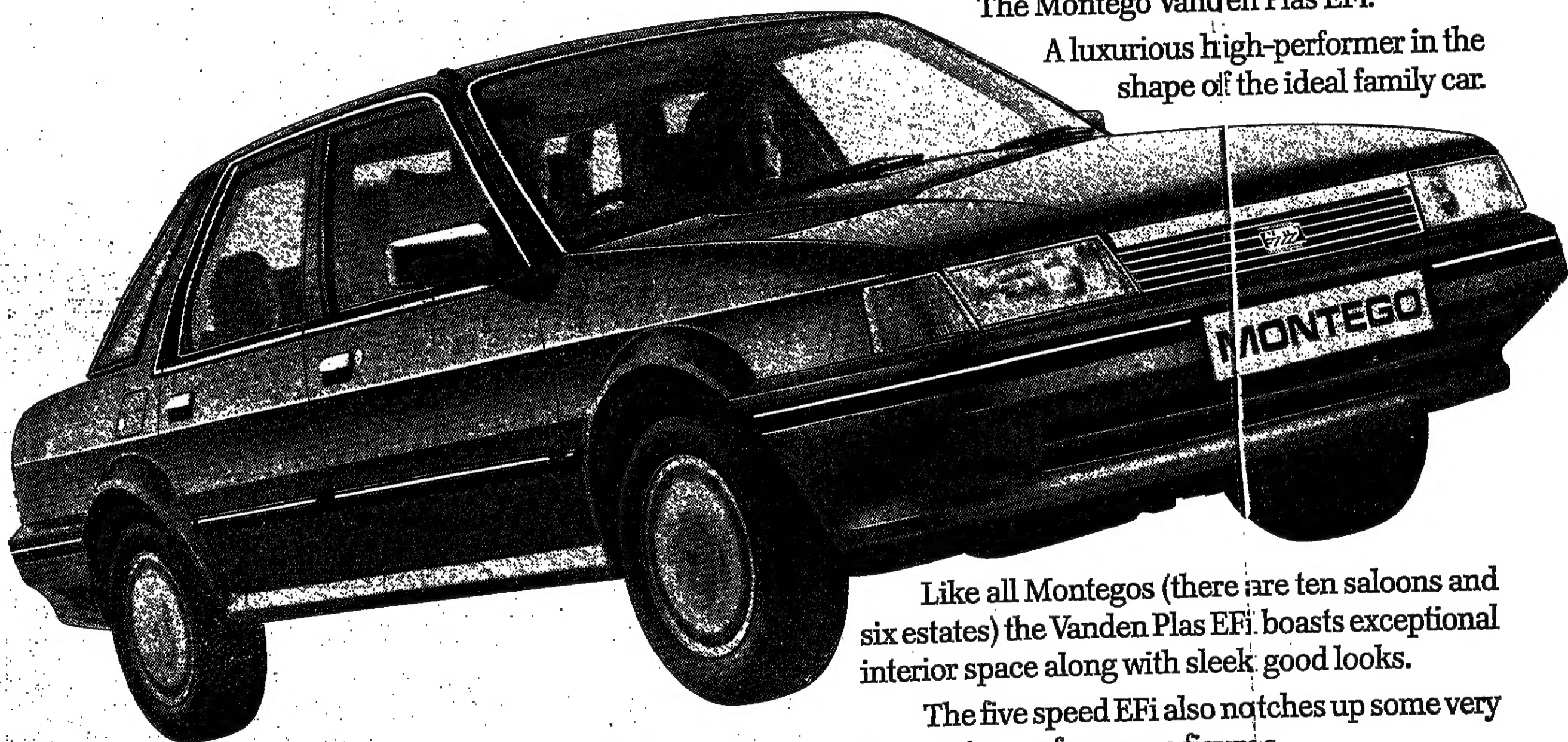
It called the organisers of Dr Graham's visit to England, this summer, to reconsider relaying the meetings by satellite to Lakenheath. Up to 7,000 people a night will see Dr Graham preach on a screen at the base for an estimated 70 F-11 bombers.

Mrs Barbara Eggleston, national organiser of Christian CND, said that Dr Graham could be used as part of a public relations exercise by the US Air Force.

The base was named last week as one of the most likely locations for the potential deployment in Britain of US Nerve gas bombs.

Mission England plans to transmit his meetings via the European Communications Satellite from Sheffield to up to 250,000 people throughout Britain and Ireland.

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OVERSEAS NEWS

THE GUARDIAN Thursday April 18 1985 7

Secret documents discuss possible role for US army

Reagan plan to double rebel forces in Nicaragua

From Michael White in Washington

The White House, while publicly urging a negotiated solution in Nicaragua, is privately planning to double the size of the rebel forces — the contras — to push the Sandinistas into "a course of moderation".

Secret documents, which have been leaked here, rule out the direct use of US military force, but say that this possibility "must realistically be recognised as an eventual option, even our stakes in the region, if other policy alternatives fail".

Direct intervention is not widely expected, but the former president, Mr Carter, added his voice, in a radio interview yesterday, to those who claim that President Reagan's "secret war" is increasingly leading America in that direction.

Even before Mr Reagan announced his new "peace plan" on April 3, key congressional committees had been sent a 22-page document, classified as top secret, which envisaged funding the contras to the point where, up to 25,000 rebels would be putting "real pressure" on the Sandinistas.

An expurgated version of the document, which rejects as "expensive and doubtful" the alternative strategy of containment of the left-wing regime, was published officially yesterday.

Nominally, there are supposed to be 15,000 contras fighting from bases in Honduras to the north and 5,000 fighting in the south from Costa Rica. But many observers as well as the Nicaraguan

Government say that the true figures are far smaller. Not even the White House disputes that the rebels are now on the defensive.

Mr Reagan is bringing all his political muscle to bear on a strategy in which he is urging a 60-day cease-fire and talks between the two sides in return for a congressional release of \$14 million in covert aid, which would be used only for humanitarian assistance to the contras until June 1. If the talks made no progress by then, military aid would resume.

This is widely regarded as a ploy and, despite White House pressure, even the Republican minority leader in the House of Representatives, Mr Robert Michel, has urged the President to compromise. The votes are due by the end of the month.

The White House's representation of the Sandinistas — as an internal tyranny and an external threat to its neighbours and to US security — is widely seen here as exaggerated. This week, Colonel Edward King, a retired US army officer with considerable military experience, issued a report describing the White House line as "a selective rhetorical build-up".

He argued that, although the Sandinista infantry strength and quality was improving, its lack of an officer corps and logistical infrastructure made it no serious threat to its neighbours.

The Honduran army could "put up one hell of a fight" if attacked and could fall back on US aid under the Rio Treaty. Those who fear US direct involvement argue that a provoked "incident" on the Honduran border might be the instrument of such action.

Russians respond on major's death

From James Gershenzang in Washington

The Soviet military, in a move to resolve the dispute about the shooting of a US officer in East Germany, last month, has agreed not to "use force or weapons" against members of the US military team operating there, the State Department has said.

The Soviet commander in East Germany also agreed to refer "to higher authority" the US demand for compensation for the family of the dead officer, Major Arthur Nicholson.

The officer, a member of an elite team based in East Germany, was killed when he was shot in the chest by a Soviet soldier who found him with a camera near a tank shed. The shooting occurred in an area that the Russians claim was closed to members of the US military liaison team in East Germany. The US has claimed that the territory was not restricted.

The shooting on March 24 disrupted at least one US-Soviet ceremony, but officials took pains to emphasise that it should not be allowed to interrupt the apparent thaw in relations between the superpowers. The Soviet agreement to avoid the use of force in the future was seen as an effort to keep the incident from setting back such events as the newly-

resumed arms control talks in Geneva.

The State Department said that General Glenn Ode, commander-in-chief of the US army in Europe, and General Mikhail Zaitsev, the commander-in-chief of the Soviet forces in Germany, met twice on Friday for a total of four-and-a-half hours in Potsdam, first at the Soviet officers' club and then at the US military liaison mission house.

"We obtained agreement from the Soviets that they will not permit use of force or weapons against the members of our military liaison mission in the future. They also agreed to refer our demand for an apology and compensation to the Nicholson family to higher authority," the State Department said in a written statement on Tuesday.

However, an Administration official said that the Soviet agreement to pass the discussion of an apology and compensation to others higher in the chain of command did not increase the likelihood that this demand would be met.

The (Soviet) general took the position he didn't have the authority to go as far as discussing an apology or to offer compensation," he said. "They're not going to apologise or compensate. They're not going to come out in public and do anything like that." — Los Angeles Times.

Police arrest 96 in Brisbane protest

From Richard Yallop in Melbourne

BRISBANE police yesterday arrested 96 people, including five priests, who were picketing an electricity depot, in protest against the anti-strike legislation introduced by Queensland's state government.

The laws, which prevent electricity workers from striking and curb the freedom of all unionists, have been criticised by the Australian Council of Trade Unions, civil liberties organisations, and some churches.

The Anglican Primate of Australia, Sir John Grindrod, has defended the right to strike, as has the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, who visited Queensland earlier this week.

Road transport unions in New South Wales yesterday began a blockade of Queensland in retaliation against the new laws, and air, sea, and rail unions will join it for 24 hours from midnight tonight.

A million postal items are likely to be delayed, and international telephone calls to Queensland may be stopped. Four hundred people took part in yesterday's demonstration, and the 96 arrested were the greatest number in Queensland since 284 people were arrested in a "right-to-march" rally in Brisbane in

October, 1978. Legislation introduced then banning street marches has meant that large groups of people wishing to demonstrate against legislation have had to walk in single file to avoid arrest.

Protesters were arrested yesterday under a section of the new Electricity (Continuity of Supply) Bill, which gives the police power to arrest anyone interfering with the electricity supply.

Ten priests from the Anglican, Catholic, and Presbyterian churches attended yesterday's protest, and five were arrested. Father Dick Pascoe, who carried a large cross, said: "The law is stupid. There is no moral obligation on any striker to obey any of these laws."

Queensland's Minister for Industrial Relations said that the arrested priests, who entered a police van singing "We shall overcome," were a disgrace to their church.

The confrontation originates in a strike by electricity workers over the use of non-union labour by the South-east Queensland Electricity Board. The Queensland Government, led by 74-year-old Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen, said off

1,000 striking workers, and will rebuke them only if they give a no-strike undertaking or agree to disclose the names of the strike ringleaders.



No laughing matter: A smile becomes a shriek of outrage as a demonstrator at the University of California at Berkeley is forcibly removed. Police arrested 161 of 2,000 people protesting against the university's \$1.7 billion investments with companies doing business in South Africa

Death threats to Neves doctor

SAO PAULO: The chief surgeon treating Brazil's 73-year-old president-elect, Mr Neves, has been given two bodyguards after receiving death threats, police said.

Mr Neves remains in critical condition after seven operations in a month, and a neurologist said he could never recover sufficiently to assume the presidency because of brain damage caused by oxygen starvation.

Bulletins described his condition as very grave but said it was being kept stable by drugs and machines to aid his kidneys and breathing.

A police spokesman said that the surgeon, Dr Henrique Pinotti, had three calls from a person who appeared unstable. "If the man (Neves) dies you will pay for it," the spokesman quoted the caller as saying.

Dr Pinotti has been assigned two bodyguards, and a police vehicle and driver. The doctor has expressed concern at the possible reaction of crowds outside the hospital if Mr Neves died, the spokesman added. — Reuters.

Carbide told to help gas victims

From Michael Isikoff in New York

A federal judge has told Union Carbide that "as a matter of fundamental human decency," it should make an emergency payment of \$5 million of \$10 million to aid the victims of last December's poison gas leak at Bhopal.

Judge John Keenan, citing the continued suffering of Indians injured in the disaster, also set a court schedule that calls for Union Carbide and Indian government lawyers to devise a relief aid plan and submit it to him by May 8.

Such relief, which the judge suggested be implemented through groups such as the International Red Cross, would represent an "advance payment" against any overall settlement that Union Carbide reaches with the Indian Government.

The judge's order came at a crowded pre-trial conference on the Bhopal case here on Tuesday in which a Union Carbide lawyer indicated that the company may challenge the validity of scores of lawsuits against it, including one filed last week by the Indian Government, if its offer to settle the case out of court is not accepted soon. — Washington Post.

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'Night of hell' in battered Beirut

BEIRUT: Even by the grim standards of battered West Beirut, it was one of the worst nights inhabitants could remember in 10 years of civil war.

Street battles among Muslim, Druze and Palestinian fighters left buildings burned out and cars and buses smoking in the morning sun. A swath of destruction cut across the mainly Muslim sector of the city and Palestinian refugee camps in the outskirts.

Damage in some districts was as bad as in February, 1984, when West Beirut was shelled by Christian and army gunners as Muslim militiamen seized control in heavy fighting.

A woman whose apartment building was hit by four rockets said it was "worse than the Israeli invasion" of 1982, when the Israelis bombed West Beirut for weeks from land, sea and air.

In addition to at least 20 people dead and 155 wounded, there was looting and violence against civilians as militiamen broke into their homes.

At one hospital where bloodstained corridors were used as emergency wards, armed militiamen dragged away a defeated Sunni Muslim fighter who had taken refuge.

"It was a night of hell," said a Sunni housewife, whose apartment caught fire after being hit by rocket-propelled grenades and stormed by militiamen. Her son in the next building was roughed-up and robbed by the fighters.

"Blast these people. When will they stop," another bittered Muslim said. He was surveying debris at the shell-pocked Gamal Abdel-Nasser mosque and the burned-out headquarters of the defeated Sunni Murabitoun militia beside it.

"Look at Muslim solidarity," he scoffed, as victorious Druze militiamen piled a gold-framed print of Koranic verses and a girl's wall clock from the mosque on to a militia truck carrying a twin-barrelled heavy machinegun.

Fighting which started on Tuesday afternoon with clashes between the Sunni Murabitoun and Shi'ite Amal militias ended at mid-morning yesterday.

The UN's Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian refugees said yesterday in Vienna that its Beirut office has been closed because of the heavy fighting. The office directs the agency's field operations throughout Lebanon, where there are 250,000 registered Palestinian refugees. — Reuter.



Victory of sorts: Heavily-armed Shi'ite Muslim militiamen celebrate the defeat of Sunni and Palestinian rivals yesterday after 15 hours of street fighting in west Beirut. The Amal irregulars captured the headquarters of the Sunni Murabitoun

Three soldiers wounded in bombing as withdrawal from Lebanon continues

Israeli jets blast Beka'a

From Ian Black in Jerusalem

Israeli planes yesterday attacked a Palestinian "guerrilla base" in Lebanon's Beka'a valley while three soldiers were injured in a guerrilla bomb attack in the occupied south.

The army spokesman announced that the air raid was against a base belonging to the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, north-west of the town of Bar Elias. It was one of a series of such attacks which the Israelis say are intended to strike at "terrorist" targets.

The three soldiers were wounded near the village of Kafr Kana in south Lebanon where a roadside bomb—a familiar weapon in the continuing guerrilla war against the occupying Israelis—was detonated as a motorised patrol passed. There were two other similar attacks in the area but no casualties.

United Nations sources reported that Israeli troops carried out a search and arrested four suspected guerrillas in the village of Shouhar, south of the Litani river—one of a series of recent operations that appear designed to pacify the area adjoining the proposed security zone.

The Israeli Defence Minister, Mr Yitzhak Rabin, said yesterday that he believed that Syria would "encourage" Palestinian guerrilla infiltration into the Beka'a valley after the completion of the Israeli withdrawal from that area.

Mr Rabin told the armed forces radio station, during a visit to Israeli troops in the Tyre area, that the security zone along the border would be controlled by a combination of local village militias and the South Lebanese Army. The SLA would be composed of separate Druze, Christian and, he hoped, some Shi'ite Muslim units.

It was his intention, Mr Rabin said, that there be no permanent Israeli military presence in the security zone, but he made a distinction between what he called Israeli Defence Force "activity" and "maintaining links with all the different communities"—a distinction which is bound to fuel concern here that Israel's disengagement will not be as total as promised.

According to a report in the *Leader* comment, page 12

Ha'aretz newspaper yesterday, 175 members of Mr Sami Jer's rebel Christian Phalangist faction have now been stationed in the town of Jezzine and placed under the control of the SLA commander, General Antoine Lahad.

Two Druze villages in the Hashaya area, meanwhile, remain under blockade, after local residents refused to fulfil

the recruitment quota demanded of them by the SLA. Israeli military sources say that the blockade is in force because of opposition in the Druze area to cooperation with Israel and General Lahad's forces.

The Prime Minister, Mr Shimon Peres, and President Mubarak of Egypt, are now likely to hold their long-awaited summit meeting in May, a senior government official said here yesterday. An interministerial committee has been set up to make the necessary arrangements.

Reuter adds: An Israeli soldier was sentenced to life imprisonment yesterday for killing one person and wounding 10 in a rocket attack on an Arab bus court officials said.

David Ben-Shimon, aged 18, had told the Jerusalem district court that he fired at the bus to avenge Arab attacks against Jews, but he had aimed high

and had not intended to harm anyone. The US-made anti-tank rocket was fired at the Arab bus in Jerusalem on October 28, 1984, killing one man and wounding 10 other passengers. A month earlier, the soldier threw a grenade at an Arab coffee shop in the Old City of Jerusalem, wounding four people.

The court convicted Ben-Shimon on charges of murder and attempted murder and sentenced him to the mandatory term for the crimes, life imprisonment.

In Baghdad, top PLO officials yesterday agreed to continue armed struggle against Israel at the end of a two-day policy meeting. The talks, chaired by Mr Yasser Arafat, brought together the 15-man PLO executive committee and the Palestinian inner cabinet — and the central committee of Mr Arafat's Fatah guerrilla group, the largest PLO faction.

Gadafy calls on Sudan rebels to back Khartoum

Tripoli: Colonel Gadafy is urging Libyan-backed Sudanese rebels to make peace with the new military regime in Sudan, an official Libyan news agency reported yesterday.

The Libyan leader also said in an interview on Monday that he hoped Libya and Sudan would unite "to liberate the Nile valley and Palestine" and praised the Sudanese people for overthrowing their old enemy Ja'afar Numeiri.

Colonel Gadafy said that he had been in frequent contact with Colonel John Garang, leader of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) which has been fighting for autonomy for southern Sudan. He described Colonel Garang, whose organisation is based in Ethiopia, as "a revolutionary and our ally".

"We are exerting all efforts so that John Garang does not detach himself (secede from Sudan) or continue the war after the fall of stooge Numeiri," Colonel Gadafy said.

"From now on we will only back Sudan," he said. "We are ready to contribute to the unity of Sudan and to solving the problem of the south."

It was unclear if Colonel Gadafy meant that he was withdrawing support for the SPLA. Last week, Colonel Garang said that "we shall continue to fight. The SPLA will not support the new regime."

"The Sudanese people should be the forerunners of the initiatives and holders of the banners of the new revolution in the Nile valley... so that the region is not incited against America," he said. Libya was the first country to recognise the new Sudanese Government after years of hostility toward Mr Numeiri. Relations between Libya and

Egypt, which shares borders with Libya and Sudan, have remained bitter.

"I am very proud of the Sudanese people," Colonel Gadafy said. "If God wills, Sudan and Libya will unite in one Arab nation and will be able to liberate the Nile valley and Palestine, and establish the one strong advanced and liberated Arab nation from the Atlantic to the Gulf," he said. The Nile valley runs through both Sudan and Egypt.

In Cairo, an Egyptian magazine, *Al-Musawwar*, yesterday quoted General Swarddhab,

THE Sudanese ambassador to London, Mr Sayed Abdullahi, as saying that an investigation will be launched into the transport of Ethiopian Jews to Israel via Sudan. In addition, Mr Numeiri and leading members of his regime would be speedily tried.

Asked if his regime intended to investigate last winter's transport of thousands of Ethiopian Jews known as Falashas, General Swarddhab said: "Yes, we have decided to open investigations into the Falasha case, and we will call to account all officials responsible for smuggling Falashas from Khartoum."

Politicians from southern Sudan said yesterday that they had called on General Swarddhab to abolish Islamic law because it was "destructive to our national unity."

AP/Reuter.

Anger at Somali rate cut

From Iain Guest

THE UN Secretary-General, Mr Perez de Cuellar, has complained that President Mohamed Siad Barre of Somalia has decided to convert UN funds into Somali shillings at less than half the official rate of exchange.

Mr Perez de Cuellar sent the President a warning that Somali policy was in violation of a legal agreement that UN agencies shall benefit from the most favourable rate of exchange.

The message said that the policy could prejudice UN projects and emergency assistance to Somalia's estimated 700,000 refugees. Four days later the protest was rejected by President Siad Barre.

The disagreement follows a decision by Somalia to devalue the shilling on the insistence of the IMF and adjust it to the black market rate of 81 shillings to the dollar.

At the same time, however, the shilling introduced a second official rate of 36 shillings to the dollar, which is being applied to foreign embassies and UN agencies, but not to voluntary agencies. According to reports, it will also apply to bilateral aid.

The immediate effect of the new policy has already been felt by the office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, which has budgeted \$36 million from its general programmes and \$12 million of emergency funds for Somalia this year.

Another UN agency affected will be the UN Development Programme. Mr Perez de Cuellar's message points out that the exchange rate policy effectively imposes a tax of 50 per cent on UN programmes. This would appear to leave UN agencies with two ways of buying the policy: by cutting their programmes or by increasing their allocation for Somalia.

Nigeria fuels aid row

By Michael Simmons

The Nigerian authorities denied yesterday that they were blocking emergency food shipments to Chad, but in a tough statement issued in London they said that some food aid donors attempting to send consignments through Nigeria were acting "in flagrant violation of Nigeria's sovereignty."

The statement, signed on behalf of the acting high commissioner, will add fuel to the bitter row which has already lasted several weeks between the military Government in Lagos and United Nations officials who are trying to cope with a food crisis which is killing 1,000 people a month.

These officials, working through the World Food Programme in Rome, say that if urgently-needed grain supplies are allowed through the Nigerian port of Apapa they can reach Chad in a matter of days. Shipments diverted to the Nigerians to the Cameroon port of Douala can take five weeks to reach the same destination.

Mr Bradford Morse, who is in charge of the UN famine relief operation through Chad, and Mr Erik Moller, head of the Food Programme's task force, have been in Lagos since the beginning of the week, waiting to discuss their grievances with the Nigerian leader, General Buhari. Yesterday's statement made no reference to such discussions taking place.

UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Mr J. P. de Gucht, said that Nigerian ports were already committed to allow food aid to pass to Niger, and that "facilities are so overstretched that they cannot take on additional consignments destined for Chad."

The head of the military government, it said, had consistently advised the Chad Government that food consignments should go through Cameroon.

Investigations were now going on to determine how many consignments for Chad had been routed through Nigeria against its wishes, and it is expected that difficulties will be resolved soon.

Troops ordered to shoot on sight in Indian caste riots

From Ajay Bose in New Delhi

Violence continued unabated yesterday in the western state of Gujarat where caste riots have claimed at least 11 lives and left hundreds of people injured in the past two days.

The riots were sparked by a new government policy to reserve 50 per cent of government jobs and university seats for socially-backward castes.

The army was called out in Gujarat on Tuesday night to restore order, but clashes between warring upper and lower caste groups were reported yesterday from different parts of the state despite the deployment.

In Surat district, security forces had to open fire to disperse a mob of 3,000 tribals who were planning to attack an upper caste residential colony in retaliation for an earlier raid on tribal houses by anti-reservation agitators. At least two people were killed.

Police and paramilitary forces also opened fire in the industrial city of Baroda where upper caste agitators, protesting against the reservation, set fire to government buildings and vehicles. Several were reported to have been killed and scores of others injured.

An indefinite curfew has been imposed in many parts of Gujarat and shoot-on-sight orders issued in some areas.

Schools, colleges, shops, and businesses in most cities and towns of the state remained closed yesterday for the third consecutive day in response to a strike call by the anti-reservation agitators. Transport was also reported to be paralysed.

Observers here fear that if the situation in Gujarat is not controlled soon, the agitators may provoke an all-out caste war which could spread to other states.

The Government said yesterday that almost 1,000 women were widowed in New Delhi during anti-Sikh riots triggered by Mr Indira Gandhi's assassination.

Hindu blasphemy row

PLANS for Indian cultural festivals abroad were embroiled in controversy yesterday about an official description of one of Hinduism's main gods as an "erectacoeleste".

The description of Shiva, god of creation and destruction and also of dance, appeared in an official brochure for the Festival of India in France and the United States later this year.

The Indian Express newspaper said. An MP Mr P. K. Umashankar took the brochure's authors to task in Parliament, saying that Shiva was worshipped by millions of Indians and the description was blasphemous. — Reuter.

Spies galore

A TOTAL of nine diplomats from the Soviet Union, France, Poland and East Germany were involved in the big Indian spy ring uncovered earlier this year, according to charges filed against Indians allegedly involved in the scandal. Eighteen government officials and businessmen have been charged. — Reuter.

Scot starts gaol fast

Singapore: A Scottish engineer has started a hunger strike over conditions in a gaol on an Indonesian island, where he and six friends have been held for four months, his wife said yesterday.

"My husband has lost all hope of leaving the island alive. He has decided not to eat or drink," Mrs Vera Jambur said, after visiting her husband on Karimun Island, 20 miles south-west of here.

Mr William Braid Anderson, aged 44, from St Andrews, was arrested with five Europeans and an Australian on January 3, when they tried to tow a drilling barge out of Indonesian waters. They appeared before a court on Karimun on April 9, charged with illegal entry and threatening behaviour. Diplomats said their trial was postponed until May 6, when they could be sentenced to up to a year in gaol if found guilty. — Reuter.

Karachi protesters ignore curfew

Karachi: Protesters yesterday ignored a 24-hour curfew imposed on parts of Karachi and pelted police with stones, as unrest which has already claimed 10 lives spread to other parts of Pakistan's largest city.

Armed troops kept the main streets of five northern Karachi neighbourhoods clear but bands of youths roamed the side streets and stoned police patrols trying to enforce the curfew, residents said.

The protests, ignited by a fatal road accident, spread to areas outside the curfew zone as residents and workers from the North-west Frontier province, bordering Afghanistan, clashed. The latter made up about a million of Karachi's seven million people.

Ten people died after police fired on crowds on Tuesday protesting against the tear gas and baton charges used against women student protesters. The

students were protesting at the death of a colleague killed by a bus on Monday.

One of the dead was a policeman, set on fire by protesters on Tuesday, police said. They said that two unnamed policemen were dragged out of a rickshaw and beaten, while more than 100 people watched and clapped.

The protesters then sprinkled petrol on one of the policemen and set him alight. The other policeman escaped.

Doctors said about 20 people were injured in clashes yesterday. Over 100 were treated, many with gunshot wounds, following the police firing on Tuesday.

Armed troops blocked traffic to and from the curfew areas and urged residents to stay in their houses. But hundreds were seen crossing a dry river bed yesterday to slip out of the curfew zone for shopping or work. — Reuter.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rescue in space fails

AN ATTEMPT by the crew of the Discovery space shuttle to activate an \$80 million satellite failed yesterday, writes Mark Tran. The Discovery had to pull a switch on the US Navy communications satellite with a faulty satellite failed yesterday, writes Mark Tran. The Discovery had to pull a switch on the US Navy communications satellite with a faulty satellite failed yesterday, writes Mark Tran.

The shuttle closed to within 30 feet of the satellite to allow astronaut Margaret S. S. Seddon to manoeuvre the 50 foot robot arm. The switch was hit twice and it ripped through two slots in the plastic sheet as planned, but it did not move far enough, indicating it had jammed.

No other attempts were planned and yesterday's failure is another setback to the troubled shuttle programme.

Japan's jet

JAPAN yesterday unveiled the prototype of a new jet fighter trainer, the XT-4, which will eventually replace the US-designed T-33. A spokesman said the twin-engine aircraft, capable of 560 mph, was a product of all-Japanese technology. — Reuter.

Ring alarm

THE Pope briefly lost his papal gold ring in St Peter's Square, Rome yesterday. It flew off his finger while he was waving to the crowd from his jeep. Security agents quickly located the ring which is an official papal seal. — AP.

Jury ruling

THE JUDGE in the retrial of the Danish socialist, Claus von Bulow for the attempted murder of his wife has ruled that the jury will have to be kept sequestered for the duration of the trial in Providence, Rhode Island. The jury has yet to be chosen. — Reuter.

Crash trial

THE TRIAL of two pilots who were in the controls of a Swiss charter jet which crashed into the sea near Madeira in 1977, killing 36 people opened in Geneva yesterday. The two Swiss nationals, named only as Gilbert N. aged 46 and Nicolas M. aged 43, have been charged with manslaughter and grievous bodily harm and with breaking flight regulations. — Reuter.

Fast ended

BORIS BEGUN, aged 20, the son of an imprisoned Soviet campaigner for Jewish emigration has abandoned a fast for 23 days in Moscow in a vain attempt to force the authorities to give him specific information about his father, Mr Josif Begun. He said he gave up his fast after losing 42lb. He now weighs 95lb, he said. — Reuter.

Libyan expelled

A LIBYAN diplomat who was expelled from Britain after last year's siege of the Libyan Embassy in London, was sent back to Libya from Brussels yesterday, Omar Elmeida, alias Sodani, was expelled for using false papers for financial transactions, and had no links with terrorist activities in Belgium, justice ministry sources said. — Reuter.

Islands' link

THE Danish Government yesterday proposed building a bridge or tunnel link costing 2850 million across the 10-mile stretch of Baltic Sea between the islands of Zealand and Funen which could be completed by 1993. Sweden has also been pressing for a bridge over the two-mile stretch of sea dividing Sweden and Denmark. — Reuter.

Extradition

THE Dutch Supreme Court has approved extradition of a suspected Irish terrorist, James McCann, aged 44, to West Germany, where he is wanted for alleged involvement in a bomb attack on Nato installations. The suspect had fought extradition on the grounds that he was not McCann, but the court ruled that his identity had been "satisfactorily established." — AP.

Banda meeting

PRESIDENT Kamuzu Banda of Malawi will talk with the Prime Minister, Mrs Thatcher, yesterday. Dr Banda arrived in London on Tuesday for a four-day state visit. — Reuter.

Topless fines

CITY inspectors in Tel Aviv are to look out for topless bathers at a fenced-off beach reserved for religious Jewish women. "Non-orthodox" women, taking advantage of the fact there are no men around, have been coming to the beach and taking their tops off. The chief of municipal beach services said yesterday. Last year eight topless bathers were fined the equivalent of a 80 pence each. — Reuter.

Botha to go ahead with Namibia plan

By Patrick Keefley, Diplomatic Correspondent

President Botha of South Africa is expected today to announce a new constitutional plan for Namibia, in defiance of Britain, the US, and other Western powers which have warned him against doing so.

The withdrawal yesterday of the last of the South African troops from southern Angola — an armed column of 100 vehicles and 500 men — is seen in London and other Western capitals as a clear sign that South Africa is going ahead with its unilateral plan for Namibia.

The return of this last detachment was in marked contrast to the clandestine operation in December, 1983, when the original troop movement was made across the Angolan frontier. For yesterday's operation, correspondents were alerted to the border crossing post of Oshana, where the chief of the Defence Forces,

General Constand Viljoen, received them.

This ostentatious event, timed to go with today's expected announcement of a new constitutional plan, is seen to be aimed at impressing opinion in the African front-line states to the north. Mr Botha's aim is to bypass the UN plan for internationally-supervised elections.

In Cape Town yesterday, President Botha met the leaders of the so-called internal parties of Namibia, grouped as the Multi-Party Conference, which excludes Swapo, to discuss plans for a new interim government and an independence constitution.

The British minister for Africa, Mr Rikhynd, warned Africa in a any plan which ignored the provisions of UN Resolution 435 would be null and void, and that any regime so created would be denied international recognition.

AP/Reuter.

OVERSEAS NEWS

Abolition of national veto 'key to progress'

Italy launches drive towards greater integration in EEC

From Derek Brown in Strasbourg

An intensive diplomatic effort to propel the European Community towards greater political unity will be launched next month.

The central question to be tackled is whether to preserve, restrict, or abolish altogether the existing right of governments to veto Community decisions on grounds of vital national interest.

The Prime Minister of Italy, Mr Bettino Craxi, who will host the Community summit in Milan at the end of June, said yesterday that he would hold a series of meetings with the other nine member countries "at the highest political level". These talks, and the Milan summit itself, will be dominated by European integration and how to achieve it.

Mr Craxi will open his campaign at the world economic summit in Bonn, starting on May 2. He will have talks on the margins of the summit with Mrs Thatcher, President Francois Mitterrand, and Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

The Milan debate will be based on the recently-published report of a high-level committee on reform, chaired by the Irish Senator, Mr Jim Dooge.

It confirmed a continuing deep division among the Ten, with the six founders — France, West Germany, Italy, and the Benelux countries — in favour of much more majority voting, and the four more recent recruits — Britain, the Irish Republic, Denmark, and Greece — more attached to the national veto.

Mr Dooge, who was here yesterday to listen to the European Parliament debating moves towards unity — most MEPs being enthusiastically in favour — said he was optimistic that the two broad approaches could be reconciled.

"I do not expect to see in my lifetime a United States of Europe, but any move in that direction... involves greater cohesion among countries of the Community would be welcome," he said.

Mr Dooge said that an inter-governmental conference to discuss the details of a reformed, more integrated Europe, could start work as early as September. It would need at least two months, in his opinion, to draft the necessary new rules.

The British Government remains cool on the idea of

such a conference and, while accepting that the principle of unanimity must give way to more majority voting, is strongly in favour of retaining an ultimate right to veto Community decisions.

British Conservatives in Parliament are split on the issue, and the pro-European majority in the group have come close to committing party heresy with their calls for drastic reforms of voting procedure.

One of the keenest Tory European federalists, Mr Derek Prang (Hertfordshire), yesterday blamed the veto for making Europe "an economic pigmy". The group leader, Sir Henry Plumb, more cautiously opted for restrictions, rather than outright abolition of the veto.

The British Labour group has no such problems of definition being steadfastly opposed to any moves towards greater unity. Its spokesman Mr Tom Magby (Yorkshire South-west), said that European union, or a super-state, would simply mean more bureaucratic centralisation. It would prevent socialist government from carrying out essential economic and social reforms.

Greece to go to the polls in June

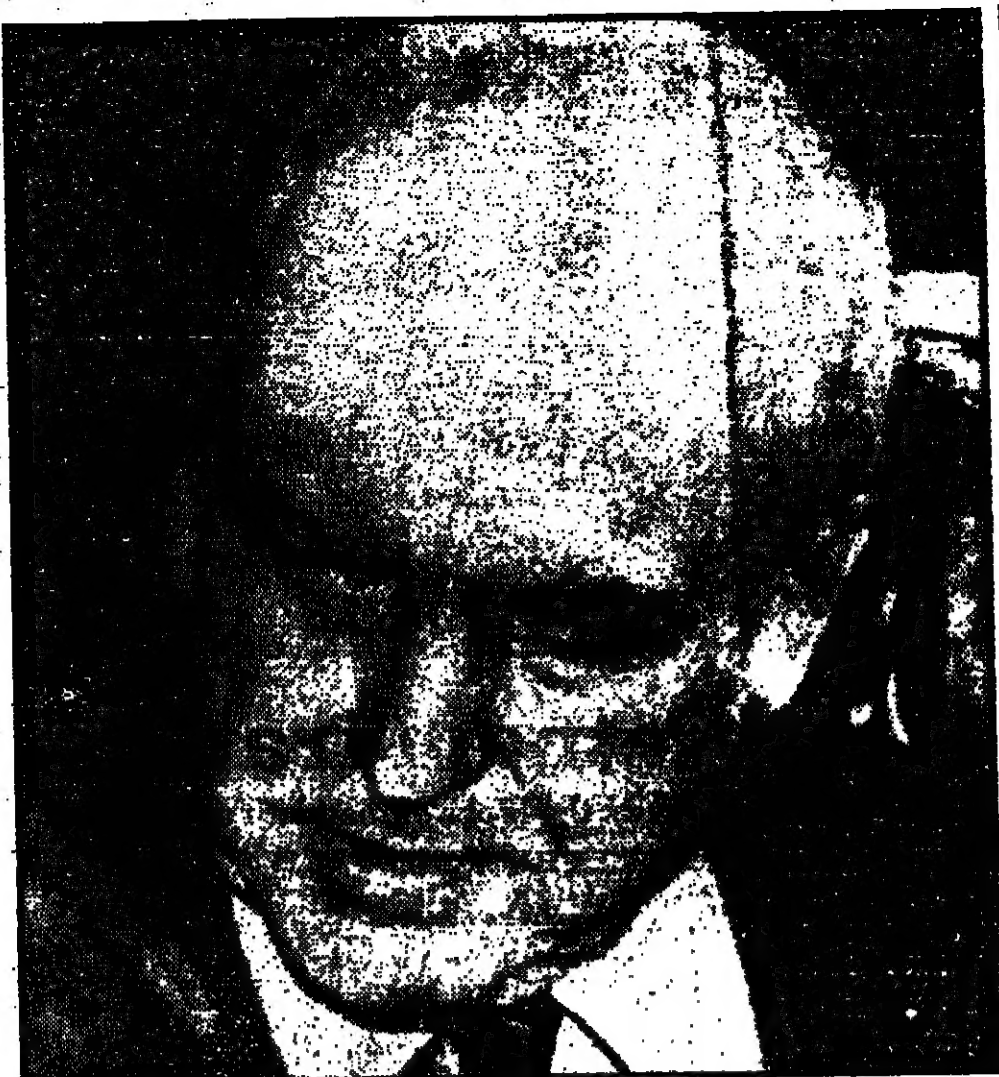
ATHENS: The Prime Minister, Mr Andreas Papandreu, whose Government has been under attack for proposing constitutional changes, yesterday announced that he would ask for early general elections in June.

Mr Papandreu said that he would write today to President Christos Sartzetakis seeking a poll on June 3 or 4. His Government's term does not expire until October.

If Mr Sartzetakis agrees to the early elections, as is widely expected, Parliament will be dissolved shortly after the second of two votes in principle on the constitutional changes, set for May 4, the presidential spokesman, Mr Dimitrios Maroudas, said.

The changes can only get final approval after new general elections. Mr Maroudas said that concern about Cyprus had also prompted Mr Papandreu to seek an early poll.

The amendments to the 1975 Constitution, which would limit the President's powers to call elections or referendums, prompted the resignation on March 10 of President Constantinos Karamanlis — Reuters.



Going to the country: Mr Andreas Papandreu yesterday after announcing elections in June

Call for united approach to SDI

Brussels: A senior EEC commissioner has said that European states must negotiate jointly with the US on President Reagan's Star Wars research programme if they are to get a fair deal.

The Commission vice-president, Mr Karl-Heinz Narjes, who is responsible for industrial policy, said in remarks published yesterday: "Only if the potential European partners stand together and negotiate jointly can I see a satisfactory share for all."

The US last month invited its NATO allies, together with Japan, Israel and Australia to join its so-called Strategic Defence Initiative, a research programme into a space-based defence against ballistic missiles.

Mr Narjes said that the potential spin-offs for civilian industry of the \$20-billion military programme were enormous since it was "the most advanced American national scientific, technological and industrial effort of this century."

West European countries could not expect access to all of the technological breakthroughs if they allowed themselves to be bought off individually by Washington, he said. — Reuters.

Hiroshima-day halt to nuclear tests proposed by Russia

Moscow: The Soviet Union yesterday said it was ready to agree to a moratorium on the testing of nuclear weapons to coincide with the fortieth anniversary of the dropping of the atom-bomb on Hiroshima, on August 6.

Tass, which reported the Soviet statement, did not say that the Russians were ready to declare a unilateral moratorium, leaving unclear whether it would initiate a ban on August 6 if other nuclear powers did not agree to such a move.

Tass said that the Soviet proposal was in response to an American group that had suggested such a ban to the President of the Supreme Soviet.

The Soviet Union has repeatedly urged all nuclear powers to declare a nuclear test ban. On February 26, Pravda called for the ban, saying it would be a gesture of goodwill for the arms control negotiations that began in Geneva on March 12.

The United States and the Soviet Union signed two partial test ban treaties in 1974 and 1976. Neither has been ratified by either country, although both have said they are adhering to them. Disputes about verification and the relationship of a complete ban to other arms control questions have blocked agreement on stopping all tests.

The two countries agreed with Britain in 1963 to halt tests in the atmosphere, in space, and under water.

Tass said that the President of the Supreme Soviet had received an address from an American group called the Centre for Defence Information, headed by Mr Gene Larocque and Mr Eugene Carroll, who called for a moratorium on all nuclear weapons tests, beginning on August 6.

A senior US Official confirmed yesterday that the Soviet Union has told American negotiators in Geneva that it was freezing the deployment of SS20 missiles in Europe, and has urged Washington to follow suit.

Mr Gorbachev announced last week that Moscow had suspended SS20 deployments until next November, as well as halting so-called counter-measures against NATO's Cruise and Pershing II missile deployments in Western Europe.

The Assistant Secretary of State, Mr Richard Burt, said in a television broadcast from Washington that what the Soviet delegation had said in the Geneva arms control talks was consistent with Mr Gorbachev's proposal. "We were a little bit surprised that it was such an unimaginative, warmed-over proposal," he said. — AP/Reuters.

Finland's turn as talks proliferate

From Donald Fields in Helsinki

American and Soviet experts, who have been negotiating here since Monday on how to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons, are preparing the groundwork for a review of the Geneva next autumn, of the 1985 Proliferation Treaty.

Discussion of the treaty is taken by observers as an example of growing East-West dialogue.

Between December 1982, and November 1984 — a time when superpower relations hit a low point — the two sides discussed the treaty four times in Washington, Moscow and Geneva.

The head of the eight-man US delegation, Mr Richard Kennedy, will make a joint statement today, with the talks here due to end tomorrow. Mr

Kennedy is a special State Department adviser on non-proliferation and his Soviet counterpart, Mr Andrei Petrovsky, is head of the state Atomic Energy Committee.

The Finnish Foreign Minister, Mr Paavo Vayrynen, gave a reception for the two delegations last night. His aides, pleased that Helsinki is again a site for East-West contact, are using the occasion to gain firsthand knowledge on arms control.

The spotlight will be on Helsinki again in late July, when delegates from the 35 countries which signed the Helsinki Final Act will gather for a 10th anniversary. An American official said yesterday that the idea of using this occasion for a Reagan-Gorbachev summit was "not under consideration."

Arms cache found

From Jane Walker in Madrid

French police have uncovered the largest ever ETA arms and weapons store in the basement of a garage only five miles from the Spanish border.

The raid was made after a tip received by French police in a suicide note sent to them before the garage's owner apparently shot himself.

Hidden under the garage of the house in St Pee sur Nivelle, south-west France, were two tons of plastic explosives, almost 1 million cartridges of various calibres, 71 grenades to be used with rocket launchers, 12 miles of explosive fuse and hundreds of guns. Three large armoured lorries were needed to transport the haul to the police station.

Michael Lafitt, aged 42, is believed to have killed himself after his wife left him for a Spanish Basque separatist. His suicide note contained precise instructions on how the police could open the sophisticated lock to gain entrance to the basement beneath his garage.

company was expropriated by the Spanish Government in February 1983.

It will be the first time the head of the Gibraltar Government has visited Spain since 1964, when Franco began to put pressure on Britain for the return of the Rock to Spain.

Mr Joshua has repeated many times that Gibraltar will remain British as long as he lives.

Gibraltar chief to visit Spain after 20 years

From our Correspondent in Madrid

Sir Joshua Hassan, the Chief Minister of Gibraltar, will today step on to Spanish soil for the first time in more than 20 years to hold talks with the Spanish authorities.

Sir Joshua, aged 69, will later be entertained to lunch at a town which formerly belonged to the financier, Mr Jose Maria Ruiz Mateos, whose business

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A LITTLE girl scarred with napalm runs endlessly down a country highway, coconut palms crumple in a mist of napalm, water buffaloes stampede beneath the shadow of a helicopter, and a "suspected Vietcong" is shot in the street, again and again.

Yes, the Tragedy of Vietnam is showing once more, on screen and in print, to mark the tenth anniversary of the liberation, or fall, of Saigon (there can be no neutral word).

Not much has changed in the way that it is being played. The pictures mostly remind us of the actual tragedy of the Vietnamese in Vietnam which made such good television at the time. But the voice-over and the arguments are about the other tragedy which the Americans are supposed to have suffered, partly in Vietnam, but particularly back at home.

The Vietnam war was a disaster not known to the US since the Civil War, writes Harrison Salisbury in his introduction to *Vietnam Reconsidered*. This is a fascinating collection of American views of the war, from David Dellinger through Daniel Ellsberg to Douglas Pike. But it is not a re-consideration of the disaster suffered by the Vietnamese — who only get 30 pages of refugee views.

The American liberal has come to terms with the "Vietnam trauma" (itself a revealing phrase) by turning horrendous actions into noble dilemmas. Mr Salisbury even manages to enoble Lyndon Johnson, inviting the reader to examine his utopian, heroic concept, doomed from inception, to have both guns and butter.

America's greatest living historian, William Appleman Williams, offers some sound advice at the University of California symposium on which this book is based. America has cast itself as the city on a hill destined to transform the wilderness. But as John Adams warned long ago to search for monsters in the wilderness will lead to self-destruction.



The squalor of war

'The Vietnam trauma'

John Gittings reviews the books of the tenth anniversary

The mythical monster of the cold war, Professor Williams reminds us, was sought by the United States to "intervene and kill people in Vietnam" was taken by Harry Truman.

The Vietnam veterans, speaking from the floor, understand too the self-deceiving nature of this global theology. "I have been carrying a guilt trip around with me," the vets are willing to talk about Vietnam. Are you? And, "We lost the war. Good. America needed to be kicked in the nuts. General Bruce Palmer Jr., deputy to General Westmoreland in Vietnam, agrees. In the 25-year war, that it started in 1950 and that the monster monolith never existed. As a student at War College he argued in a seminar paper that the US had made a big mistake in back-

Vietnam Reconsidered, by Harrison Salisbury (Harcourt & Row, \$25.00).

The 25-Year War, by General Bruce Palmer (Harcourt & Row, \$26.50).

Women and Revolution in Vietnam, by Arlene Eisen (Zed Books, £13.95, paper \$6.95).

The Tunnels of Cu Chi, by Tom Mangold and John Penycate. (Hodder, £12.95).

ing the return to Indochina of French colonialism.

He admits the kick in the nuts too. "The damage to our own self-esteem... was incalculable." But intelligent military men look at all sides of the question, and General Palmer concludes that the Vietnam war did have some positive spin-off. It is good

study material, he says, for young and old alike in his profession. And for those who may be heading for the Chief of Staff echelon, he advises that they should do their best "to improve the civilian-military interface" which did not function too well during the war.

But the biggest plus of the Vietnam war for General Palmer was that it "bought time" for the rest of South-east Asia to resist the communist threat, particularly in Indonesia which he designates as the "strategic prize" of the region, saved for freedom by the coup of 1965.

This sort of analysis, when advanced at the time by radical critics of US foreign policy, was rubbished as a crude economic conspiracy theory. It is nice to have it confirmed by a shrewd American general (though he omits to count the cost of at least

two hundred thousand civilians dead in Indonesia alone).

Meanwhile, back in Vietnam...

Arlene Eisen, in *Women and Revolution in Vietnam*, quotes a popular song from Quang Ngai near the end of the war: "When my land has peace... I shall go in celebration and hope that I will forget the story of this war. Everyone will go into the street to cry out with smiles."

Have they managed to forget and do they manage to smile? Though admitting that like many others during the war the romanticised aspects of the Vietnam war have faded, Eisen now finds a society trying to become more humane and where women are making some progress.

Some former anti-war activists and western feminists disagree with her. But she is at least asking the right questions in the right place about the real Vietnam trauma. And because we know so little about post-war Vietnam, her accounts of health, education and the family are a real gap.

Tom Mangold and John Penycate asked some very different questions when they visited Vietnam to research *The Tunnels of Cu Chi*. This was the area not far from Saigon where an American base was built underground right on top of a complex of "Vietcong" tunnels. Bob Hope's one-liner when he visited the camp — "Welcome to Cu Chi by the Vee Sea" — was true then he knew.

The story of the underground war between American troops and the Vietcong is a gripping and morbid read, with the tension heightened by a touch of vicarious claustrophobia.

The moral is supposed to be that there were unsung heroes on both sides and that hatred has faded in mutual respect. It is a good war book (subtitled "The remarkable story of war") which will do extremely well. Perhaps that is the real moral.

Tissue of lies

William Boyd on Carey's conman

Illywhacker, by Peter Carey (Faber, £9.95).

AN Illywhacker, in Australian slang, is a con-man, and the Illywhacker in question, 139-year-old Herbert Badger, warns us at the very beginning of this very long novel, that he is a terrible liar. "Lying," he says, "is my main subject, my speciality, my skill... my advice is not to waste your time with your red pen, to try to pull apart the lies and truth, but to relax and enjoy the show."

The show consists of Badger's life, his wives, his lovers and offspring, his few triumphs and many disasters, all set against the backdrop of twentieth-century Australian history. The book, like its narrator, is glib, engaging, eccentric and witty. Its prodigious generosity allows us to witness Badger as pioneer aviator, big game hunter, model T Ford, jailbird and travelling vaudeville.

Phoebe, his second wife, turns into a blue stocking lesbian. Leah, his other great love, abandons him to return to her illegitimate communist husband. His son Charles creates the Greatest Pet Shop in the world; his grandson called Hissie, to carry favour with the Japanese, poised to invade during World War II... and so on.

The tone is a familiar one these days: flippant, knowing, comic-ironic, fantastical, made-real by the novel in big and sprawling enough to encompass them all.

But if *Illywhacker* — like all fiction — is a tissue of lies told by a liar then it's worth unmaking some of the book's own deceptions. *Illywhacker* looks like the big novel about

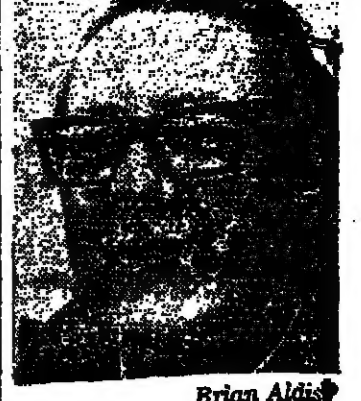
Australia — Carey doing a Dos Passos or Bushdie or a Grey — and Herbert Badger makes claims to be a classic fictional archetype — part Tristram Shandy, part Basil Seal — but in both cases flatters rather than deceives. It is not so much a question of failing but of possessing different strengths.

The problem lies with the presence of Badger himself at the centre of the novel. For much of the time he simply isn't there, as other characters' lives take over central stage. Furthermore, he isn't present at these moments even as a "voice" — the "I" of the novel addresses us as "we" — at considerable length — about Leah and her lover Irnie, or about Herbert's ludicrous son Charles, the tone changes from the glib, and personal to more orthodox omniscient narration.

There is nothing wrong with these changes of tone and point of view, it is simply that they tend to diffuse the impact of the ostensible narrator and star turn.

Another effect of this is that the minor characters begin to claim more of our attention — such is the relish and skill with which Carey draws them — and Herbert Badger becomes a figure in a group portrait rather than dominating solo presence around whom the other characters cluster.

What I'm saying, I suppose, is that the splendour of the individual lives attracts us more than the glories of wood and stone. It is a heavy price to pay. *Illywhacker* is a rich and fine novel, but Carey's real gift is for the local and precise rather than the grand and all encompassing.



Brian Aldiss

Winter world

Hilary Bailey

Helliconia Winter, by Brian Aldiss (Cape, £8.95).

BRIAN ALDISS concludes his *Helliconia* trilogy with *Helliconia Winter*. The geological journey through the coming dawn over the planet but eventually it will go.

The story centres now on Luterin Shokandris's rescue journey through the chaotic world hit by sickness, war and poor harvests, back to his family where he will uncover his own secret and continue the struggle to survive.

It is actually from the confusions of physical life — the diseases, the weather, the voyages, sexual encounters, fights, the communal struggles — that Aldiss draws his strength. He must be one of the few writers of large, cosmological books who doesn't fear, loathe, disappear or prophesise the end of the world in the terms of which normal people normally live their lives.

Meanwhile, as dark comes down over *Helliconia* the observation station set up by earth to report back on *Helliconia* gradually corrupts. And Earth contrives its own disaster.

A notable fact about science fiction is that it deals with other times and other worlds but really reflects its own times very closely, although the message is always fragmentary and dreamlike, often like Cassius Dio's prophetic, only intelligible after the event.

Aldiss says, I think that a static, overcontrolled situation will go to the bad for want of challenge, energetic, misguided Earth will blow itself up, that the *Helliconia* solution is best — to live at peace with nature, accepting and not attempting to dominate our surroundings. We are only a part of creation, not all of it. And maybe, he suggests, a return to the good old female principle, the Earth mother, would do us no harm.

It's not so much that science has gone too far (since galvanism, science fiction, the atom bomb, the Whitehouses of science, have been saying this for broad-minded, but this time science has gone too far) but that now the impulses behind it are disgusting. Does the writer believe all this? One side of him, the bit on the side of the angels, knows it's all true. The other bit, the one on the side of the rogues, is worried about the Grochu Marx's Chai theory of Utopia — would it be Utopia if we were able to live there?

Nonetheless, this is a worthy wind-up to a set of three books which will be read and read for their bleak, worlds and galaxies and their small, vivid pictures of people trying to live in them.

Adults' stuff

Edward Blishen on Children's Lit

Secret Gardens: The Golden Age of Children's Literature, by Humphrey Carpenter (Allen & Unwin, £12.95).

The Case of Peter Pan, or The Impossibility of Children's Fiction (Macmillan, \$5.95 paper; £17.50 cloth).

AS I thought over the experience of reading Humphrey Carpenter and then Jacqueline Rose on children's fiction, it struck me that it was like being at a circus where two innovative performers are appearing for the first time.

One offers a newish slant on a familiar act to warm applause: but the second turns out to be a specialist in casting aspersions on the reality of the circus itself, with particular reference (causing outbursts of booing in some corners of the tent) to the unlikelihood that it ever had an audience.

What Mr Carpenter sets out to do is to account for the existence of the line of children's writers that began with Charles Kingsley, went on literally with Lewis Carroll, and ended with A. A. Milne. He holds that this famous flood sprang from the discovery "that a children's book can be the perfect vehicle for an adult's most personal and private concerns"; and that, rejecting or doubting conventional religious teaching, the earlier writers were all engaged in acts of destruction.

Kingsley made raging mince-meat of pedants, doctors and a whole range of "Victorian irrelevances"; Carroll laid about religion itself, not only in his parodies of Isaac Watts but in the very structure of the Alice stories; which, in treating of a world that is constantly uncreating itself, amount to "a negation of the Christian concept of the nature of human beings". Mr Carpenter suggests that the "very small cake" and delicious liquid eaten and

drunk by Alice have an unholy relationship to Holy communion; and he fancies the post-Alice Dodgson must have lived in terror of being revisited by Carroll.

This story of destruction is shrewdly and persuasively taken through George MacDonald to Louisa May Alcott, who set out to undermine false notions of the family and ended, poor lady, by bolstering them; and then shown as turning into a story of attempted reconstruction. What was Bevis (oddly found teddy bear) by Mr Carpenter after the first two chapters, Kenneth Grahame, Edith Nesbit (whom he doesn't much care for), Beatrix Potter, J. M. Barrie, Milne, was an alternative religion.

Largely this took an arcadian form: the substitutes on offer for the old orthodoxes of hills being dead and loved by Peter Pan and the River Bank Treading as carefully in the morass that was Barrie as he has trodden in the swamp that was Kingsley. Mr Carpenter concludes that the fall status of an alternative religion was achieved by Peter Pan.

Which is where Jacqueline Rose takes up the story. Bringing a cruelly newer critical language to bear, she turns her scornful attention to that formula Mr Carpenter has not thought it necessary to worry at much: the one about children's fiction being a fiction in which adults can relieve their private tensions.

She holds that much if not all writing for children, and Peter Pan above all, has been used for an extensive and mostly dishonest ends: which add up to what she calls "the ongoing sexual and political mystification of the child." Kingingly she declares: "there is no child behind the category 'children's fiction'."

This is a stimulatingly iconoclastic work, in which she turns her scornful attention to that formula Mr Carpenter has not thought it necessary to worry at much: the one about children's fiction being a fiction in which adults can relieve their private tensions.

It is the precise nature of his religion that is intriguingly elusive. All that complex counterpoint is presumed to reflect deep spirituality, lending extra validity to the pious flourish AMDG (ad maiorem dei gloriam) alongside Bach's signature. But it was not Bach but Handel who said, "I have read my bible very well, and shall choose for myself."

The lack of confessional material is easily explained by their status and circumstances of work. Bach was little published in his lifetime. He lived and worked in a confined region, serving church elders and a handful of aristocratic patrons who lacked special regard for his gifts as a composer. Once you have dated his surviving output, and put together the records of births, marriages, deaths and official positions there is only a handful of not very telling anecdotes to add.

Handel seems a better bet for the biographer. Mainwaring's memoir came out just one year after his death. Handel was a distinctive figure in the London newspapers with a reputation for strong, black moods, a gentleman of means, a bachelor who died

OUT OF Ireland have we come! Great hatred, little room. I Maimed us at the start. I carry on my mother's womb. A fanatic heart. This is the prelude to Frances Molloy's novel, seeming autobiography of Ann Molloy, who is the old-fashioned daughter of a Catholic family in a 90 per cent Protestant town in Northern Ireland.

But Ann's voice is not Yeatsian. Embarked on an abortive career as a nun she says: "It saddened me somewhat when I thought of the fate that lay before me poor man and da because they weren't imitating Christ, for there was no way a boy could ever imitate Christ an' manage to live in our house at the same time."

In fact the voice behind *No Made for the Magpie* is not Yeatsian. Embarked on an abortive career as a nun she says: "It saddened me somewhat when I thought of the fate that lay before me poor man and da because they weren't imitating Christ, for there was no way a boy could ever imitate Christ an' manage to live in our house at the same time."

The fanatic heart returns in the title of Edna O'Brien's collection of short stories. Unique and brilliant, luscious and leniently, the stories should not be read by women on their own — they come from the inner mental hospital where people are always separate, only love can cement them together and after childhood love always betrays.

Again from Ireland comes Maeve Binchy's most recent big book. It may be we are about the life he led as a poor girl from a big family and David, the doctor's son, than in the lives of



Frances Molloy



Edna O'Brien



Maeve Binchy

Some fanatic hearts

Hilary Bailey reviews the rest of the week's fiction

the surrounding characters in the small Irish town. There is Clare's brother who goes to England to work and gets gaoled instead and the schoolmistress who fosters Clare but must keep her brother's secret from the whole town.

Maeve Binchy writes as if she were the mother of them all, and does not avoid telling the final story about what happens to the people reared in this small, secretive place.

From Ireland, then, to what seems to be its antipode, the Italian Lesson tells of a middle-aged, middle-class couple of the kind which is so frequently represented in fiction these days by way of encounters with out-of-order

No Made for the Magpie, by Frances Molloy (Virago, £3.50).

A Fanatic Heart. Selected Stories, by Edna O'Brien (Weidenfeld, £3.95).

Echoes, by Maeve Binchy (Century, £3.95).

The Italian Lesson, by Janice Elliott (Hodder, £3.95).

The Grand Master Plan, by George and Marion Boyars, £3.95.

Sinking, Stealing, by Jan Clausen (Women's Press, £2.95).

youth and terrorist bombs.

William and Fanny have gone to Italy to recover from the death of Fanny's baby. Via the events surrounding

their meeting with a young girl looking for the father of her child, because of the effect of the place on them, some kind of reconciliation is achieved in this intelligent and discreet book.

The *Grand Master Plan* is a very funny, bright, iconoclastic book — the Plan is Mr Boyars' effort to make sure she never has to take any more orders and always gets her own way for ever after.

Millie is five years old. When her final trick ends in a disaster she is packed off, unremorseful still, to a strict school and vows: "When she grew up she would be a school teacher and would have hundreds of soldiers under her command and they would

Bach and Handel

Tom Sutcliffe on the tercentenaries

Handel: The Man and His Music, by Jonathan Keates (Gollancz, £12.95).

Handel, by Christopher Hogwood (Faber, £12.95).

Handel and His World, by H. C. Robbins Landon (Weidenfeld, £12.95).

rich from purveying elevated sentiment to the bourgeoisie of his day. Quite a lot is known about the life he led as a composer. But though Handel was no lackey of aristocrats and church authorities, indeed consciously strove to avoid the status of so many of his fellow composers, though he exploited his talents well and was — far more than Bach — a figure of international distinction, he too in practice served a narrow society.

Bach did not need to correspond with anyone outside his family and professional circle. Handel did not choose to. He totally transplanted himself to London, sending odd remittances to Germany, but not communicating. Also he was never quite at ease in English. Though he moved in literary circles, and had a kind of Mrs Thrale in Mary Granville, there was no Boswell.

That is no problem for Robbins Landon's book, *Handel and His World*. Since Otto Deutsch's documentary biography of Handel came out in 1964, says Landon, "the death-knell of the usual kind of narrative biography of great musicians has sounded." What Landon offers is a small-scale selection of documentary material, with lavish illustrations. The age of Handel was certainly visual, apt for a scrapbook. But, surely Handel was not unhappy that he could hardly expect (as it were) a repeat performance in the foreseeable future of his coronation

Handel's World in a Passion, by Norman Lebrecht (Deutsch, £2.95).

Johann Sebastian Bach, by Hans Dieter Wollschlaeger (Lancaster, £12.95).

J. S. Bach: Life, Times, Influence, ed. Barbara Schwendowius & Wolfgang Domling (Yale, £36).

music for George II? He couldn't have cared less. Like Landon, Christopher Hogwood's Handel reprints copious documentary accounts, but follows a stricter chronological progress. Unfortunately Hogwood also drags the reader through his tedious, tedious work. Anecdotes are laboured over, to check their reliability.

This is the card-index approach to biography. Hogwood has masses of diverting detail, and continues right up to the authentic performance movement of today. But he lacks an attractive and readable style, in which the material is properly digested.

This is where Jonathan Keates' *Handel, the Man and His Music* comes in. Keates is a writer whose own excellent style is especially sensitive to period (as is clear from the Kleistian atmosphere of his *Allegro Postillions* stories). He too quotes liberally from sources, but has a manner of writing that comfortably frames the original citations.

Thus, though Keates confesses himself an amateur musicologist, and uses all the same basic material as Hogwood and Landon (and, as well as being sacred, is finite), he brings Handel to life with an exciting conviction lacking in other biographies. His prose has the sturdy comorbidity of Dr Johnson's.

The anecdotes are all there, of course, much better placed than in Norman Lebrecht's

rehash of the old documents about Bach, Handel and their contemporaries. But where Keates is most surprisingly successful is in his detailed accounts of the music, followed with a creative engagement that sympathetically draws out Handel's motivation as a composer. This is the proper context for the cold facts and anecdotes, and it needed a true writer with acute critical sensibility to marshal the whole story.

Handel's skill as a dramatic composer was peculiarly at home in the London of his day, a booming metropolis dominated by politics and ambition. If the composer had not relished the chances London afforded, he would not have stayed. Keates perfectly conjures up that world where Handel was the first great master to make his independent way. It was the modern world being born.

The sparse details of Bach's life barely fill Hamadriest Wollschlaeger's well illustrated account. The extraordinary thing to the modern music-lover is how little Bach's composing skills were regarded, and it's distressing to read again of the squabbling between his heirs, the mean behaviour towards his widow Anna Magdalena by the Leipzig elders, and her pauper's grave two years after his death.

A collection of essays that accompanied the Archiv Produktion series of Bach recordings makes an elegant coffee-table symposium. It's sobering to be reminded that the J. S. Bach we have, music of this standard, is only a fraction of what he wrote. Alfred Durr on printed editions and copies from Bach's own day quotes Bach's nephew saying the composer would not allow a score to be lost. "Because he has already lost many things in this way."

Bach made two big efforts to meet Handel, who was the famous public figure, his portrait painted, his statue raised. Keates would be hard pressed to find a more successful, such life-like style. But for Handel he has done the trick brilliantly.

Sober success

by Robert Nye

Secret Villages, by Douglas Dunn (Faber, £3.95).

Fires, by Raymond Carver (Corgi, £3.95).

To achieve is only to be less, by Douglas Dunn (Faber, £3.95).

THUS Douglas Dunn once, in a poem called "A Faber Melancholy" where he seemed ironically to regret that his concentration on the small and the particular did not allow him the freedom of thought and feeling associated with high romanticism such as Byron and Shelley.

Yet as a matter of fact, and ever since his first fine book of poems *Terry Street* (1969), Mr Dunn has been achieving things which are not less than the glorious gestures of romanticism; simply statements in a quite different kind of sign-language. And it is good to see him giving the ordinary reader, by extending self-criticism, by extending into prose the range of his capacity for observing and recording everyday events, which he does with the 16 short stories collected under the title *Secret Villages*.

This is a quiet, honest, sober book, but its merits seem to me of a kind which the ordinary reader might be forgiven for missing altogether. You would never guess from it, for instance, that its author was a poet — unless you noticed the way he kept all hint of rhetoric out of his prose. On the other hand, you might well conclude from a pervasive and quite attractive narrative awkwardness that Mr Dunn was no natural fiction-maker. His book, at best, has the inimitable authority of truth in this sense, there is success, and some of these stories undoubtedly achieve it.

The best way to convey the flavour of the stories is to report, with something of their own flatness, the happenings they contain. A woman's husband departs for a mining engineer for 13 years, never once returning home; meanwhile she shocks the small Scottish village where she lives by fascinate Mr Dunn. An admirable book, which neither Byron nor Shelley could have written, though Byron would have enjoyed its mixture of cynicism and affectionate irony I bet.

Raymond Carver, an American in his mid-forties, is a very different kettle of fish, but equally interesting. Mr Carver also deals in "ordinary" life, and the exclusion of all else, and employs no sentiment, in a manner of presenting it, but unlike Mr Dunn he is at his best in naked autobiographical writing — notably in the essay *My Father's Life* which is in part a portrait of himself.

Fires contains poems and stories as well as essays. As in his earlier collection of stories *Cathedral* (1984) this author is particularly moving on the subject of addiction to alcohol, about which he plainly knows a great deal, and about which he writes with a commendable absence of either self-pity or vaingloriousness.

In his essay *On Writing* he describes his own concept of the craft. "The short story writer's task is to invent the glimpse with all that is in his power." Mr Carver has a lot in his power and his glimpses are full of insight and shrewdness.

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TUC inaction can only help postal voters

The row within the Transport and General Workers Union over the election of a successor to Mr Moss Evans is no longer a family affair. It has spread to embrace the manner in which other unions conduct their elections and the politicians are, predictably, getting in on the act. When Mr Evans today examines the evidence of corruption and incompetence in the election for his successor, gathered by the (apparent) loser, Mr George Wright, he will do so amidst a chorus of demands for tougher legal controls on the way in which all unions elect their leaders. Those demands come from Conservative backbenchers, led by Mr Edward Leigh, from Dr David Owen, the SDP leader, and from the crossbench peer Lord Chapple, until recently president of the Electricians' Union (EETPU). What such demands have in common is a belief that only postal voting can ensure honest elections. That view is endorsed by Mr Terry Duffy of the Engineering Workers (AUEW). They imply a common criticism of Mr Tony King, the Employment Secretary, who refused to be stampeded into blanket endorsement of postal ballots in his controversial union reform legislation.

At which point it is worth stepping back a bit. The debate over what form of union democracy is most effective has become dangerously polarised between those who have elevated postal ballots to the status of A Good Thing and those who feel that postal ballots are part of a Thatcherite plot to cripple the unions. As for last year's election, regardless of what Mr Wright comes up with, the evidence already available suggests that it was a fair old dog's breakfast. For the peace of mind of his members and in the knowledge that the media and the politicians are in no mood to leave him alone, Mr Evans would now be well advised to counsel his national executive committee to authorise a replay. But beyond the immediate issue lies the general question of groundrules. That is why this paper has additionally advocated an inquiry into what went wrong and why and, fur-

ther, asked for recommendations to avoid a similar debacle in future elections.

The objective now should surely be something more than an Animal Farm bleating contest between those who see "Postal ballots good" and those who see "Shopfloor ballots good". That objective must be to find a method (or methods) which enable the largest number of trade unionists to take part in honest and efficient votes about their future leaders, about industrial action and, more immediately, about the existence of political funds. It will do the trade union movement no good at all if the forthcoming round of political fund referendums are subject to the sort of tidal waves of rumour, innuendo and hard accusations which have engulfed the TGWU general secretaryship ballot. That is why the TUC policy committee (EPOC) missed an important opportunity yesterday. EPOC was called upon to hear a report on union reaction to the continuing TUC campaign against every aspect of the assorted union reform Acts introduced since the 1979 election. That report, drawn up by TUC staff on the basis of reaction from affiliated unions, decided the campaign had been the "biggest and most important in recent years" and that no fundamental changes were needed. It was duly noted by EPOC which then moved on to other matters.

It was open to EPOC, and it is still open to the full general council when it meets later this month, to initiate a study of alternative voting methods. Not to attempt to impose one single formula upon all unions but to air the options in what a government department would call a Green Paper. Such a study would assuredly conclude that what is sauce for the goose is not necessarily sauce for the gander. Postal voting is a nonsense for airline pilots or merchant seamen scattered across the globe. Neither is postal voting an automatic way of avoiding ballot rigging, as critics of Mr Duffy pointed out at the AUEW conference this week. For that you need postal votes returned to, say, the Electoral Reform Society and not to union headquarters. Other criticisms of postal voting include the fact that there is often a lower rate of return than in properly conducted workplace ballots, that the media can unduly influence the individual voting at home and that a number of issues (whether to endorse a pay offer or to strike, whether to endorse a political fund) are better voted upon after a full debate in the branch.

On the other hand, workplace cum branch ballots are wide open to accident and abuse as the TGWU has demonstrated. Surely the combined wisdom of the general council could produce some ideas for effective policing. If the TUC continues to stand back, then the ill-assorted team pushing Mr King may yet have their legalistic way.

Beirut awaits Syrian response

Mr Rashid Karami has been prime minister of Lebanon at intervals since 1955. If even he can no longer work the levers of authority they no longer work at all. As the national understanding (of distant memory) requires, the prime minister is a Sunni Muslim. Mr Karami has seen the Sunnis routed in a new round of sectarian fighting in West Beirut, but that provides the occasion rather than the reason for his resignation. The Marabittoun militia group which was defeated by a combination of Shiites and Druzes is not his creature. Before the fighting of Tuesday night he had already half-resigned by ceasing to attend cabinet meetings. The half-withdrawal of his resignation to run a caretaker government does not re-create an administration, for the government of national unity set up a year ago has provided little more than a facade. Simply the events have become uncontrollable except where patchy supremacy can be locally established outside the factional heartlands by one militia or another. The Christian camp as well as the Muslim is in serious discord and the President's authority scarcely extends beyond his palace perimeter. Sidon, which rejoiced to the Israeli withdrawal in mid-February, quickly became a battleground between Phalangists and Muslims. Short of a comprehensive security operation—by who else than by Syria?—disintegration seems certain to proceed apace.

By allowing Lebanese events to take their course, and intervening openly only to prevent too great an imbalance of power arising, President Assad of Syria has emerged as the natural arbiter of Lebanon's affairs. This position is, of course, hard for Israel to accept, especially since the object of the invasion became, under General Sharon, the installation of a government friendly, or benignly neutral, towards

Israel. But in the evolution of events since 1975, when the civil war began, the Israeli invasion and gradual withdrawal has been only one destructive episode among several. The original colonisation of South Lebanon by Palestinians expelled from Jordan, and the Syrian-backed onslaught against Mr Yasser Arafat's forces in Tripoli, were each enough to provide the tensions to which Lebanon has increasingly succumbed. When to these events is added the uprising of the Shiites not only against the Israelis but against their former Lebanese masters, disorder becomes the everyday environment.

Thus, unpopular though the outcome may be in Israel and among Syria's Arab rivals, the only obvious hope for Lebanon itself now seems to be a new assertion of authority by Syria. In a legalistic sense that is indeed the purpose of the Syrian troops in the Bekaa, nominally there as an Arab Deterrent Force by agreement between Lebanon and other Arab states. If he were to intervene more directly Mr Assad would, of course, be making a gamble. He would have lost if Lebanon continued its downward spiral in spite of his efforts, or if those efforts involved ruthless measures by his forces for the world to witness. But if he won, and restored the delicate balance between the communities which Lebanon used to know, he would effectively have gained the Greater Syria of his country's ambitions and again enhanced his prestige throughout the Middle East. Since there is no shrewder politician working the area his response will be keenly awaited.

Brittan's pledge unfulfilled

Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, should be far more worried about the rising prison population than he appears to be. A decade ago, his predecessor but two, Mr Roy Jenkins, described the possibility of a prison population of 42,000 as intolerable. That limit was breached long ago. At the end of last month, prison numbers reached 46,213, the highest total ever, a rise of 1,700 compared with March 1984 and a leap of nearly 5,000 in the three months since the traditional seasonal low in December. By any standards these are alarming levels of increase. They would have been even more dramatic had it not been for Mr Brittan's reduction last July in the minimum quality-

ing period for release on parole. Without that change, the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders said this week, today's total would already be nudging 48,000. As it is, events have got the Home Office's own calculations increasingly on the run. Last August, an official estimate said that average prison numbers would rise to 47,400 by 1990. But the latest issue of the department's Prison Service Yearbook of 1982, says that by 1991, on present form that projection will probably be out of date by the end of this year.

When he became Home Secretary, Mr Brittan made the elimination of prison overcrowding a major priority. In his speech to the Conservative Party conference in October 1982, Mr Brittan announced an extension and acceleration of the prison building programme then in hand. That programme has now been augmented further. There are 16 new prisons in the pipeline. At the same time, he announced a number of measures diverting less serious offenders from custody. "The measures I have outlined today," the Home Secretary said, "will put us on course for ending prison overcrowding by the end of the decade." But we are still on course, and would Mr Brittan still make that claim in the light of the latest figures? It must be doubted.

It is of course insufficient to regard the solution to prison numbers and overcrowding as one of balancing places to prisoners. A Home Secretary can intervene at several points in the criminal justice system to achieve both workability and appropriate sentencing. The most alarming recent increase within the prison population has been on the remand side. In the year ending February 1985, the remand population rose by 16 per cent (four times the rate of increase among prisoners as a whole). Since the introduction of the 1976 Bail Act, with its statutory presumption in favour of bail and against remand, the proportion of untried prisoners in Britain's jails has not declined; it has doubled. This week, Mr Brittan did try to do something about it, when he announced field trials for limiting pre-trial custody and waiting times. This is a move in the right direction but it is hopelessly cautious by comparison with the escalating level of remands in custody. If Mr Brittan is serious about cutting numbers, he will have to take a bolder lead, and soon.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Where authority fails in its approach to child care

Sir,—You say (April 15) that Jasmine Beckford's death could influence the current Government review of child care legislation. It would be curious indeed if it did not.

But it does not follow that her death should make the Government hesitate to stress the importance of trying to reunite children in care with their families. Rather, it should reinforce the need for local authorities to have the resources and the procedures to ensure that their plans for children are working well and are properly reviewed.

The working party will know from reading a government report of 1980, that local authorities fail badly in their duty to review the case of each child in care; reviews are not carried out regularly, are conducted in perfunctory manner and have minimal involvement of children, family members and substitute carers.

Review meetings are an ob-

vious way of getting together the child and the important people in the child's life. They are as important for children in foster care as for children who are returned home.

The last inquiry into the death of a child in care that you reported was that of Shirley Woodcock who was killed by her foster parents. The inquiry team found that the local authority had not fulfilled its legal duty to review her case.

The Government review team might be able to learn something from what the inquiry now investigating Jasmine's death discovers about how frequently her case was reviewed when she was with foster parents and after she was returned home, and who was deemed important enough to be invited to participate in the meeting about her future.—Yours faithfully, Jo Tommard, Family Rights Group, Holloway Road, London N7.

An SDP message hidden in Durham's cloak of radicalism

Sir,—Am I alone in feeling that the row over Durham is a storm in a communion cup? To judge from your excerpts, what is shocking about his Easter message—and shocking only to those who haven't been listening—is its impeccable orthodoxy; to think that the Easter faith can be demonstrated is the quintessence of rationalism.

And, again, to judge from your excerpts, what is shocking about his Hibbert lecture is how conservative the good bishop is. The message to the coal board, the thrust in the government's flesh, turns out to be a social democrat in wolf's clothing. The theology of liberation he desires for Britain will be domesticated in every sense. So why should Canterbury sack him, even if he could? In time, he will make a worthy successor.

As for the Tory wrath, it shows only how out of step they have become, both with

common sense and with common decency.—Yours sincerely, (Rev.) Fannie Beaman, The Manse, Thurston, Durham.

Sir,—The Bishop of Durham is to be congratulated on his Hibbert lecture. In lectures, sermons and books he and earlier, John Woolwich, have rightly asked Christians to examine what they really believe.

Much of the recent outcry has, I suggest, been a contribution of fear—in case one's own hardened, unbending beliefs might be open to question—and of reaction. Reaction of that element of the Church of England has been called "the Conservative Party at prayer" to a man who has openly opposed the present Government and supported the miners and the unemployed. It has been suggested that the Bishop of Durham should resign—on both counts. Were not similar

calls made of the Bishop of Woolwich? Does the Church need such bishops? Does the Church need Bishop Leonard of London who advocates somewhat more conservative views?

I believe strongly the answer is "Yes". Christians of all denominations need to examine the nature of Christian belief and of Christian action.

We should not be afraid of seeking for the truth in these or other matters. We need to know Our Lord better. We need to study Jesus and His Divine nature. We also need—and in his Hibbert lecture David Jenkins has been most helpful in encouraging this—to probe what Jesus really means to us to do in the world.

The Archbishop should therefore, ignore demands to remove bishops of whatever persuasion.—Yours, (Dr) D. A. V. Denby, Church Street, Upton, Didcot, Oxon.

Sir,—Many Conservatives seem to think that they can condemn the Bishop of Durham and ignore his devastating criticism of their basic philosophy because he asserts that he is indigenous, but not domestic, by Marxist ideas. They must have forgotten that as long ago as 1948 the whole Lambeth Conference passed a resolution on this theme.

It read (in part): "The Conference believes that Communism is presenting a challenge to Christian people to study and understand its theory and practice, so that they may be well instructed as to which elements in it are in conflict with the Christian view of man and must therefore be resisted, and which elements are a true judgment on the existing social and economic order."

It must surely be absurd for anyone to condemn Dr Jenkins for saying that he is influenced by Marxist thinking when the entire company of Anglican bishops has as-

serted that its theory and practice contain elements which are true judgment on our existing social order. We reach a point at which John Gummer would seem to be saying "all Anglicans are out of step except me!" (Sir) Richard Aislab, Secretary, Easter.

Sir,—I would be grateful if you would submit my application to become a Bishop (or an Archbishop) to the appropriate channels with your recommendation.

I believe in the Trinity of St Margaret, the Lord of all things temporal, and of St Thomas the Apostle, the Lord of the Church. I further have supreme faith in the morality of the City of London, Zurich and Liechtenstein together with their missionary stations in Jersey, the Caymans and Bahamas. I undertake to visit each of those parishes at least once a year while they are in my pastoral care, and to reside for not less than six months of each year at my villa in Spain.

I further believe in the power of Murdoch, Matthews, Maxwell, Rothermere and Marwell to teach us the faith of the true Gospel according to the faith of the blessed St Margaret, who is without sin. I will support by sermon and by seminar any change required in theological or temporal laws which the aforesaid blessed St Margaret might find distasteful should they be found to support moral laws as understood by the unemployed, the aged, the young or the mentally infirm.

So all ye men of little faith of the true Gospel, get the Most High. May she live long in the Kingdom of Cayman from which heaven and heaven all earthly riches flow. And if I cannot be a Bishop, may I please become Chairman of the Conservative Party. John Shaw, North Petherton, Somerset.

Most Children are missing the Point



This week the Times Educational Supplement publishes an exclusive preview of the discovery by the Government's Assessment of Performance Unit that a majority of 15 year olds have not grasped the crucially important concept of place value and therefore cannot do sums involving decimals, multiplication, division etc. and why ordinary tests often fail to reveal this.

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A COUNTRY DIARY

EXMOOR: If cross-sections were made of the moor, out-lines like those of roller coasters would be produced. There are views from the top to the next but, as likely as not, the valley will be out of sight. When the walker or horse-rider moves forward and downhill, the protection of the hill increases, trees can survive; a gradual and often beautiful transition, from open moor to wooded valley, occurs. Both woods and moors are managed to a certain extent and hill-farming takes place over the whole region. Today, the tops are as likely to be green with improved grass as purple with heather. Sheep are as dense as the human population is sparse. The red deer recognise no boundary line but are well aware of the contrast between the wooded troughs and the open moors. Typically, they are woodland grazers, the mountain-side deer of Scotland having adapted to the open. Local deer, emerging through the woodland fringe, make use of both habitats. As hill-farms have become more productive so the deer have taken advantage of the situation. Early morning and evening are assumed to be the times they change their position but I have seen them on the move at all hours of the day. And the behaviour of one herd which I used to observe frequently suggested that it was not returning to woodland on anything like a regular basis. On my recent outing, after climbing up and down rolling hills, I failed to locate any deer. I hadn't done my homework; it always pays to study the map having regard to wind direction for instance. However, in the course of the day we noticed our first pair of pied flycatchers of the year—the earliest sighting of this woodland species that I have ever made—while skylarks were singing above the open moor.

BRIAN CHUGG

Nursing a few doubts about hospital work

Sir,—I have just spent several weeks persuading my daughter, a student nurse at a leading London teaching hospital, not to give up her training. She is not in despair about poor pay or long hours—she expected it to be that way. She has a sheer lack of opportunity to nurse, in its true sense, that has totally demoralised her.

On her last ward, caring for chronic sick and terminal ill patients, she and the other students were allocated between 12 and 15 patients each. These required turning every two hours and many were so ill or frail that two nurses were needed to do the task which meant that each nurse was constantly being called away from the ward to change to help someone else. As to the routine observations, drug rounds, finding comatose/bed-pans etc., and the whole process is on the verge of chaos.

Ancillary staff have been cut to the bone and work to clearly defined contract job definitions which result in nurses taking on extra tasks in order to maintain some level of patient care. There seems to be no opportunity for "on ward" training and no time at all to practice the good nursing techniques she learned in the classroom. She just appears to be an object of cheap labour.

My daughter's dilemma is not unique, many of her colleagues have already left and senior staff she has talked to share the same mood of despair. She wonders how she can survive the 0 and A levels demanded by the nursing school so that she could do the only job she has ever wanted, but with the ever growing cut backs in the



NHS she can see no real future as a nurse. Although I have managed to persuade her to complete her training I hold out hope that she will stay after qualifying. It all seems such a terrible waste both for the NHS and my daughter. She knows what is required to be a good nurse and desperately wants to be one, but can see no opportunity to practise it in the NHS. Yours faithfully, Brian Pearmain, Wickham Heath, Eye, Suffolk.

Miscellany a little larger than of late

Sir,—It is perfectly simple to recall the value of pi up to ten places of decimals. It is given by the French mnemonic "Que j'aime à faire apprendre un nombre utile aux sages".—Yours B. A. Young, Garrick Club, WC2.

Sir,—I did some research in a library this morning and was horrified to learn that the Queen is a blood relation of Kaiser Bill. I will be telephoning the Mirror shortly on this matter.—Yours faithfully, G. V. Banks, Birmingham.

Sir,—If ideally the Royal Ballet should have "a director who teaches and chore-

graphs, choreographers who teach and ballet masters who choreograph." (Alastair Macaulay, April 12). Is it then a pipe-dream to want ballet critics who also dance?—Yours faithfully, Deborah Macmillan, Wandsworth.

Sir,—Easter Britain 1985. Salary of the person "procuring arms", £107,000 (Guardian, April 8). Salary of the person working for disarmament: £7,900 (salary advertised for the Secretary of CND).—Yours, Rae Street, Littleborough, Lancs.

Sir,—Agrippas Mr Fitzgerald's claim (April 12), when I entered local government service in 1929 the phrase was "Don't let the bastards

grind you down," the dog latin of the time being "Non bastards carborundum bas". I suspect that the phrase is much older even than that and of any origin.—Yours, John Fraser, Adel, Leeds.

Sir,—Your report (April 18) of a further increase in expected road traffic by the end of the century was headlined "Cars fool forecasters." It will not be the first time. I remember my father telling me that in about 1900 there was a traffic forecast which stated that it would increase at the current rate, Piccadilly Circus would be several feet deep in horse manure by 1950.—Yours faithfully, W. F. Armitage, Hunstanton, Norfolk.

Back to South African basics

Sir,—Your leader on sanctions against Apartheid is admirable but for one important misjudgement. You say that external efforts can only be secondary to internal pressure; but, while the latter is certainly essential and will always be present from among the blacks, they cannot be effective under the present regime.

The blacks lack military force, and under the draconian security laws any political organisation on their part is systematically disrupted, so that they can never exert sufficient internal pressure to dislodge the white government. Internal pressure from whites, which might be effective (because they have votes) is feeble and confined to a very small minority, for the reason, little understood outside South Africa, that the great majority of South African whites, English as well as Afrikaners speaking, have a congenitally ingrained anti-black prejudice which makes them psychologically incapable of regarding black Africans as human beings even potentially on an equality with whites.

This conditions their entire political outlook, which is directed to the retention of white domination into the indefinite future and its maintenance in all aspects of social and political life throughout Southern Africa.

This is the fundamental basis of apartheid politics, which remains unchanged despite periodic peripheral modifications to adapt to changing circumstances. This cannot be removed by internal pressures. For this reason any policy of "constructive engagement" makes no sense, for it presupposes in the South African white a susceptibility, which does not exist, to persuasion and inducement to a change in attitude. Accordingly, outside pressures are the only means by which (if at all) the apartheid regime can be dislodged, and, if any desirable

result is to be achieved, they must become the primary pressures, not secondary to those from internal sources.—Yours truly, (Professor) E. E. Harris, High Wycombe, Ambleade.

Sir,—Contrary to the view expressed in your Leader (April 18), the case for effective economic sanctions against apartheid South Africa is strong.

Whilst you correctly state that "apartheid cannot be demolished without decisive internal pressure," you seem unaware that it is the organisations exerting that pressure—ANC, SWAPO, UDF and for that matter, Agincourt South Africa. As Nelson Mandela has said: "every effort to isolate South Africa adds strength to our struggle."

Your claim that those imposing sanctions must themselves suffer must also be challenged. The withdrawal of British investments in South Africa, far from threatening British jobs, could free British capital for greater investment in its own economy. (For example, South Africa: has a British Leyland car manufacturing plant; buys equipment from British coal mines; exports coal to Britain; has 1200 British companies operating there, etc.)

Perhaps the true reason economic sanctions have failed in the past is that they have never been effectively applied. Since Britain is South Africa's second largest trading partner, the imposition of full economic sanctions by the British government would not only add impetus to the liberation struggle within South Africa, but also clearly demonstrate this Government's much vaunted opposition to the inhumanity of apartheid.—Yours faithfully, Gerald Kirby, 30, Pencils Crescent, Cardiff.

John G. 1.520

FUTURES

MICRO GUARDIAN-PLUS THE WORLD OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Meteorologist Derek Winstanley argues that the scientific consensus today is still that rainfall in the region of Africa just south of the Sahara is essentially a random variable. Large variations can be expected from year to year, according to the received wisdom. Applying that philosophy . . . six consecutive years with below average rainfall might occur once every 60 or 70 years. But now the drought has lasted for 17 consecutive years, and the odds against that happening by chance are 1:125,000

IT IS NOW more than ten years since Derek Winstanley, a meteorologist then based in London, suggested that the drought affecting parts of Africa to the south of the Sahel might not be "just one of those things" but were in fact related to climatic changes around the globe. Droughts, he argued, might be related to the frequency (or infrequency) of severe winters in Britain. The Sahel might be experiencing a climatic shift as significant as the one which pulled Europe out of the "Little Ice Age" of the seventeenth century, when frost fairs were regularly held on the frozen surface of the Thames and, in Shakespeare's contemporary words, "milk" can "freeze home in pails."

Not just a spot of nasty weather

John Gribbin looks at the long-term implications of the sub-Saharan drought

Home in pain." Few experts took much notice of Winstanley's interpretation, and, unable to obtain a permanent research post in the UK, he moved on to work as an environmental adviser to the government, before being recruited to The Canada to make a voluntary contribution to the efforts of this impoverished nation. He has strengthened his hydrometeorological services. This visit provided new evidence that the drought is not just a passing spell of bad weather, but a long-term trend that has persisted and intensified over the past two centuries.

The claim deserves to be taken seriously in the wake of the success of Winstanley's largely ignored earlier warning that the African continent would not go away during the 1970s. Although the focus of attention has shifted from one country to another over the past decade, the danger remains a year on from when a large number of people by without some of the affected region suffering famine.

Winstanley's researches include an investigation of the original migration of seals from some observing stations, going back to the 19th century, begun during his spell as a voluntary worker in the Arctic. He also traced down historical records from sources dating back to before the beginning of the instrumental record, including the diaries of explorers such as James Cook and James Ross. At present Winstanley is working for the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in Washington, D.C. where he is involved in the scientific investigation of Africa. "Safariing is a hobby — one that has consumed all of his spare time for more than ten years," he says.

Winstanley admits that the

Winstanley argues that the scientific consensus today is that it rains in the region of Africa just south of the Sahara is essentially a random variable, with a constant mean and large variations can be expected from year to year, according to the received wisdom, but there is no evidence that the climates are changing. Applying that philosophy to the 1970s drought, that affected the sub-Saharan countries from 1968 to 1973, with rainfall viewed as a random variable, six consecutive years with below average

Right: Tigrean child with her family's sole possessions — a water bottle and a cooking pot. Below: On the road to Dessie, Ethiopia — the lucky ones reach the relief camp



rainfall might occur once every 60 or 70 years. But now the drought has lasted for 17 consecutive years, and the odds against that happening by chance are 1:125,000.

In 1967, nobody seriously contemplated the possibility of such a drought sequence. But it has occurred. Maybe, you can argue, we are just unlucky that a one in 125,000 event has occurred in the second half of the 20th century. According to the same

reasoning, the chance of drought persisting for 20 consecutive years would have been one in a million, back in 1967. Even the most conservative meteorologist today would place the odds of three more years of drought to follow the 17 we have already had much lower than that.

But it has been the argument that we have just had an unlucky run of four years which has largely prevented any serious attempts to set up

a development strategy based on the possibility of continuing drought. Winstanley prefers to turn the argument on its head. Faced with such long odds against the drought being a random fluctuation, can we find any evidence that the overall pattern of rainfall has changed—that the mean about which the random fluctuations occur has itself declined?

Winstanley has calculated how rainfall has changed in

the zone south of the Sahara which includes Sierra Leone, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, The Gambia, Senegal, Mauritania, Mali, Upper Volta, Niger, Chad, Ghana, Benin, Togo, Nigeria, Sudan and Ethiopia. The climate of the zone is dominated by distant wet and dry seasons, with at last three quarters of the annual rainfall concentrated in the four months of June to September. And the records show that this all important seasonal rain-

fall has been declining for two hundred years.

But this downward trend is a long-term effect, and that fluctuations producing what seems to be "normal" rainfall by conventional standards, can still occur in any one year or short run of years, argues Winstanley. That is what seems to have happened in 1974, when one year of reasonable rainfall encouraged the mistaken belief that the drought had broken and that

Curiously, although the overall effect of this should be to make the world warmer, one study, carried out at the Climatic Research Unit in Norwich, suggested last year that a greenhouse world would be one in which there would also be violent swings from one extreme of weather to another — just as North America has recently experienced.

And the very latest study from the Norwich-based Unit has extended the reliable

Dr John Gribbin in the author of *Future Weather*, published by Pelican.

The perversions of runners who don't know how to stop themselves

**After junk food,
junk miles.
Norman Myers on
the case of the
obsessive marathon
men**

AS SUNDAY'S London marathon testifies, the running boom is alive and well. And as many a doctor can testify, so is the running-injury boom. It is the lot of runners, whether start-up joggers of full-bore professionals, to risk damage to their joints and tendons from time to time.

But running can apparently be bad news in more significant senses. A handful of runners have collapsed and died while out on the road. The most notable case has been Jim Fixx, the American guru of running, who through his books helped to trigger

the running boom. Yet it turns out that Flitz suffered from a condition that he refused to ignore — and it seems likely that he would have died years earlier if he had not maintained some basic fitness through running. Flitz's story applies to many of the others who have taken their last step while in running shoes.

Nonetheless, a few members of the medical fraternity contend that running can be less of a health-promoting activity than its supporters proclaim — especially for those who are in the bloom of youth. Many runner shares something of my own experience: I recently consulted a GP about an injury. He told me that he had treated 20- to 30-year-old runners who suffer from the Peter Pan syndrome, before offering me a "perfect prescription" of an "exercise prescription" and a "diet prescription" for his club. Yet those who must back their views on running with money, the life insurance

people. Increasingly, believe runners are running inside the extreme life span, especially for those of semi-advanced years.

But there's an ostensible worse news for runners. An increasing number of people are thinking considers that some runners can damage not only their: physiques but their psyches as well. These are compulsive runners who have been subjected to the sport, over-cook them to absurd degrees, and turn running into a perversion. In other words, they don't run because they love it, but because it becomes an obsession; it is almost sinful to miss a training session. In some respects, their running is a perversion. Their daily run, which they feel they have to do, runs them.

How valid is this line of analysis? Can running remain a positive passion without becoming a negative obsession? Or does the sport, insofar as it tends to foster in

Some participants a striving for perfectionism. One occasional person who may be somehow pre-disposed to an abusive lifestyle, who is inclined to extreme behavior anyway? And does the sport then encourage this person to run to excess, even until it threatens him from toe to top?

True, there is the odd person who is dominated by his training diary. He goes to any lengths of inconvenience, for others as well as himself, in order to log his miles. But the vast majority of runners, undertaken to meet some arbitrary target, week by grinding week. Fortunately the great bulk of runners are not fanatics. Running fitness, are a world apart from this person. They recognise that too much of a good thing can become a distinctly bad thing.

Nonetheless, the controversy has been recently fuelled by an article in an American medical journal,

proposing that not too many runners should be indulged in "obligatory" running. These misguided persons pursue their running with an intensity that ignores common sense regarding physical health, and at undue cost to the rest of their lives — their work, their families, their relationships to the world around them.

There is some truth in the charge as concerns the occasional runner who does not know when to stop. But although the article does not know when to stop either (it purports to speak of large numbers of runners), it has prompted a number of popularized critiques of running. The article's very value of running for the sport's millions of health-seeking devotees. Running, it is said, tends to foster excess by its very nature, and it generates an unduly competitive response among its participants. Generalising? and to excess?

Meanwhile the original article has been cited by many other professional papers that describe important mental or emotional benefits for a majority of observed runners, as exemplified through reduced tension, improved self-image, greater assurance generally. The professional consensus now seems to be that running need not be done in a fast, strenuous fashion, and that going on a diet need be a first step on the path to starvation — and a runner need no more be an obsessive addict than a dieter.

Therein lies a key question. The flippant gibe "What are you running from?" should give way to "What are you running for?" and probably a many responses as there are runners, since it is the beauty of the sport that it enables each person to do his own thing, to go to his own level, to do what is not available in ball games, team games and other activities that involve skills and other complications.

Each runner is free to run as fast and as far, or as little and slowly, as he likes. Above all, to run to his own satisfaction — no less (and of course no more). Some run for the feeling of liberation from a

time of continental travel, some of the more remarkable experience, the "runner's high," some run merely to keep the rust out of the cylinders. Some, curious enough, think that they are to run in the rain, these being people who do not want an umbrella over every aspect of their lives. To each his own. The thousands who will up for the London Marathon on Sunday will include not only those who run just to finish the course, but those who race in fifth gear, and those many others who will overcome their own personal challenges. Each one, having had to demonstrate his commitment to the sport in earlier years, will have offered up, by saying at 26 miles is what I have, this is what I amount to. A splendidly simple way to reach deep places.

Norman Myers has regularly finished among the "sharp end of the pack" at marathons in London, New York and Boston.

Micro-surgeons to be permitted to train on live animals

But it's all in a good cause, the Government will argue. Anthony Tucker is not so sure.

ONE of the least published aspects of the progress of the live animals in scientific procedures, expected to become law within the next few months, is that for the first time in this country the animals will be counted for the "acquisition of manual skills in microsurgery." Hitherto there has been a total ban on the use of animals for any practical purpose, including unless it is in the context of precisely defined research. Ordinary surgery has been taught and performed by demonstration and observation, with this example, and tacitly, this will continue to be the case under the new legislation. Surgery, the new legislation involves the use of the dexterous hand. Microsurgery is different. Although this type of surgery

can be watched under a split-beam microscope or even transmitted to a group by high resolution video system. The skills involved in the re-union of a limb which have to be experienced to be mastered. Microsurgery is used, for example, in reattaching severed fingers or limbs or in the surgical repair of major injuries which require the transplantation of bone and tissue from another part of the body.

In surgery of this kind very fine blood vessels and neural fibres have to be re-united or connected viably with the system of the limb. The techniques for vascular repair differ from those of neural repair, both are invisible to the naked eye, and both require manual dexterity and "feel" which has to be acquired while handling pulsating tissue under the microscope.

In the past British surgeons have had to go abroad to learn these skills because of the blank state of the mind on the use of animals in the

acquisition of their craft. Remembering that in microsurgery sewn connections are made between vessels of only one millimetre diameter (or even less) and that the stitching has to provide the right tensional elasticity, while also closing the union so that any residual gaps will be blocked by blood cells, it can be recognized that there is an real skills to learn. There might have to be ten precisely placed stitches around a one millimetre union.

It might be thought that a skill of this kind could be learned on non-living substitutes or even on carcasses, but this misses the crucial problem. Vascular repairs present a special problem because the repair must be in the pulsation of the heart beat and the pressure cycle at the point of repair are essential to the "feel" and comprise factors which have to be encompassed in the repair.

It is true that the Home Office has good reasons for ending the control on the

use of live animals in the acquisition of skills. Yet it may be that the relaxation is unnecessary and will quite seriously obstruct the exploitation of alternative training methods. During the past month Mr Paul Townsend, consultant plastic surgeon at Fenchay Hospital in Bristol, has opened a micro-vascular training department which uses no experimental animals and allows the acquisition of skill on human tissues — without human patients. There is no mystery. The unit is making use of a few of the hundreds of thousands of human placentas that every year are either consigned to the destructor or bought up for peanuts by a French company which mashes them up for the extraction of various biochemical goodies.

The placenta contains a vascular system that is a perfect model and the tissue, infused in a plastic bag, and in plastic material can be used and preserved; remains

viable for a substantial period of time. The problem has been to make the placenta behave like living tissue and, to this, a large extent, has now been done.

In the Bristol unit the placentas are connected to an artificial blood supply driven by a peristaltic pump which simulates the heartbeat and produces typical human vascular pressures. Since the placenta contains a range of blood vessels of different diameters a single placenta can provide a substantial amount of practice.

Mr Townsend acknowledges, however, that the technique still has some distance to go before it can fully substitute for the animal. One of the problems is that the placenta contains an anti-blood clotting agent or mechanism which had yet to be investigated and controlled. It is very well known that this natural agent has characteristics which make it the basis of a very useful drug. But, for those developing the

Bristol unit it is something of a nuisance, because it is important that the model reacts like living tissue if an over-constrictive repair is carried out. The placental vessels will not thrombose. Since the avoidance of thrombotic repairs is a critical aspect of training the existing system is not fully adequate.

But both Paul Townsend and the Lord Dowding Fund for Humane Research — which is providing support for the placental microsurgery training unit — believe that this problem can be overcome. When it is, there will be no need for live animals in the practice of microsurgery. Possibly the Home Office should take this fact on board and even, perhaps, do something to accelerate development of this new technique instead of relaxing control on the use of animals for surgical practice.

Lifting Procedures on Scientific Animals: Cmnd. 8823: HMSO 1983.

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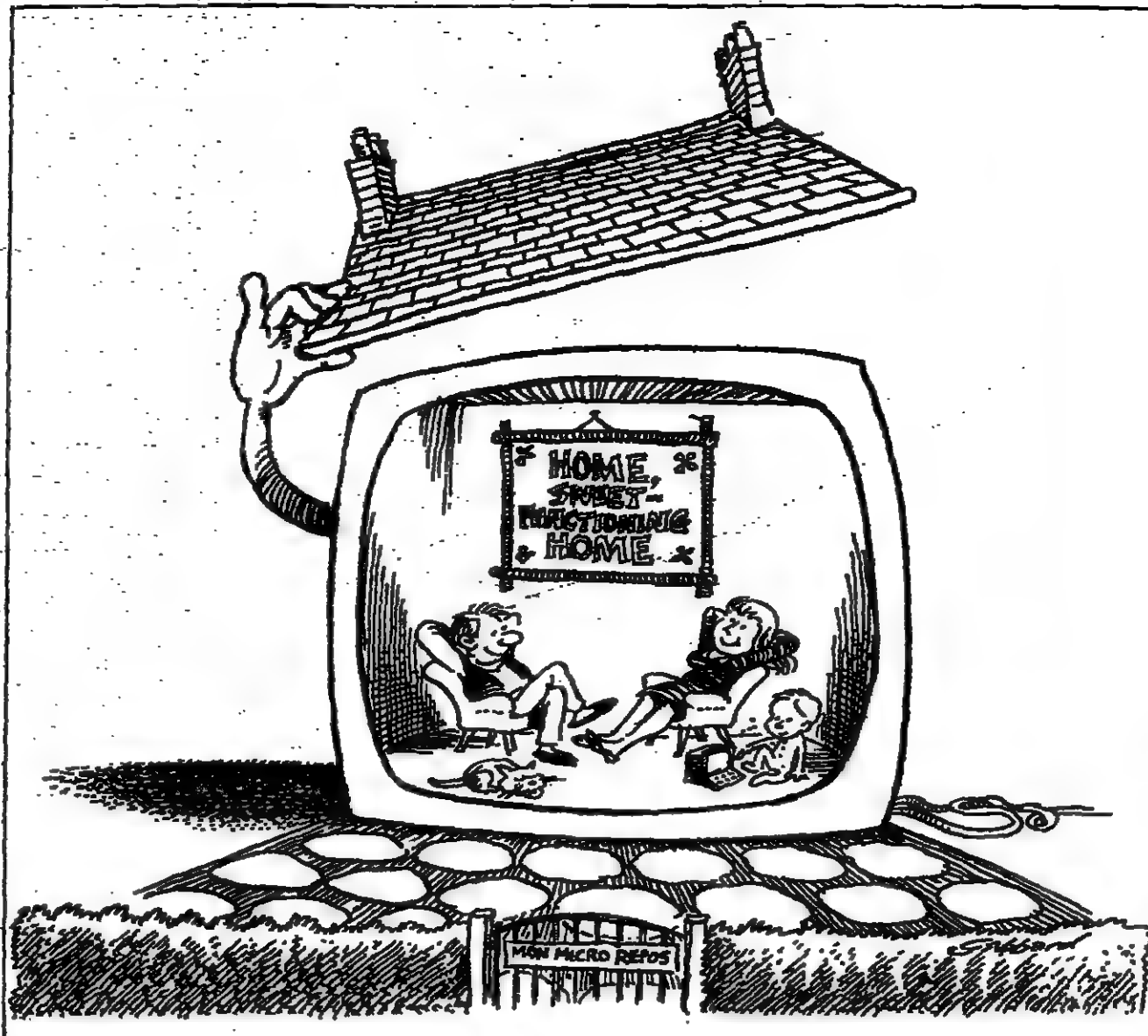
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'Ch's heat sensors are set so that he can telphen someone enters a room. He can thiswitch the lights on. As he knows wife everyone is in the house, if a body is used in one room but didn't get there fre another, Chip calls the police. It mins we can't climb in through our own widows without being nabbed, but then, nather can anyone else.'

The waiter and the porter and the downstairs maid

What would be the ideal home micro? Jack Schofield looks into the future, but bases his fantasy only on today's technology



MY IDEAL home micro will surprise you. I don't want a souped-up Atari 800XL or Commodore 64 — these are little more than computer games consoles anyway. It is more like a DEC VAX mini-computer, a multi-user, multi-tasking supermicro with two megabytes of RAM (random-access memory), 2Mbytes micro-floppy disc drive, modem, dot-matrix printer and video cassette recorder. The whole thing is about the size of a microwave oven, and installed permanently under the stairs.

The main processor is a Motorola multi-tasking chip designed to run four programs at once. It was rather expensive compared with today's £250-£300. The bare board with modem, operating system, NEC graphics chips, Western Digital disc controller, clock/calendar and 256K on RAM cost £500. The rest of the RAM is made up of 256 separate chips (I because we bought 64K-bit RAMs at £1.25 each (these are still cheaper than the £2.56K-bit RAMs, of 16 of the new 1 megabit variety — though one day a megabyte of RAM will cost £20). The 3.5 inch micro-floppy disc, used for temporary back-up, cost £200, and the printer was £250. The total system price, with case and uninterruptible power supply, was about £1,500.

Most of the operating system is written in Motorola's high-level language MPI, and developed from a 6800-based prototype installed in the house of the Future in Arizona in 1990. We don't use all five modules of the system. Not the security module which provides electronic keypads instead of traditional locks (though one day we may adopt the Mitsubishi system that recognises palm-prints), nor the standard motion detectors. We changed to heat sensors (see below) when we found the system turned lights off when you dozed in a chair, but turned them on when the cat came in!

The video recorder is an extra. Chip uses it for archiving — it holds 3,000 megabytes of data — and recording TV programmes too. (A read/write video disc would be better, but they are still too expensive at £5,000.)

I say "Chip uses it" because that's what we call him. It's an acronym for Computerised Home Information Processor. Chip is the brain; the rest was installed by the builder when our ideal Home was erected. All that was required was for standard coaxial cable to be laid along with the 13 amp mains wiring. "Co-ax" was laid to carry cable TV signals, which it does. It has also been adopted by companies like IBM for personal computer networking.

In our case, co-ax carries all the computer data, the phone lines and cable and broadcast television signals, though there is still spare capacity for another dozen or so channels when we need them. As there are cable input/output ports next to every three-pin mains plug, Chip is linked to every part of the house. Heat

sensors, motion detectors, infra-red receivers and portable workstations can be plugged into the cable as required — and as funds allow.

Chip's first task, as Information Manager, is to monitor everything that comes into or leaves the house. That includes electricity — he's wired to the meter — and the telephone and television channels. Chip keeps a record of everything from the price of individual telephone calls to the cost of boiling a kettle. It not only helps us economise, it makes sure we don't get overcharged by the suppliers. Chip also keeps the family diary, so he can, for example, warn the house up when we're expected home.

Chip's second task is Electrical Load Switching and Energy Management: he controls the heating system, which one day will include solar panels on the roof and some heat exchangers. Once a second he monitors the temperature of every room, the people present and the status of the power supply, so he can ensure we spend the minimum on heating. He reckons this facility alone will cover his cost in under five years.

Chip's heat sensors are set so he can tell when someone enters a room. He can then switch the lights on, and up to 256 other gadgets via standard BSR modules controlled by sending radio frequency signals round the AC mains wiring. As he knows where everyone is in the house, if a body is sensed in one room

but didn't get there from another, Chip calls the police. It means we can't climb in through our own windows without getting nabbed, but then, nor can anyone else.

Chip's third job is Communications Manager, which includes electronic mail, information retrieval and financial management. We do everything via Telecom Gold (03-314220). He monitors our electronic mailbox, logging on automatically three times a day to unload any mail we've typed in, and collect anything that's arrived. In the evening he checks with our bank's computer to get our current account balance, pay bills, and transfer any spare cash to an interest-earning account for the night. (In the morning, of course, he can transfer it back.)

If we need information, we type the criteria into a search program and Chip consults various databases such as Personal and Knowledge Adviser to see if he can find it. Of course, Chip isn't smart enough to know if he has searched successfully or not. He just downloads up to a million words at a high speed — up to 25,000 words a second — so we can flick through them later at our leisure. It saves a fortune on phone bills.

Of course we couldn't do this on an ordinary office-line, which gets dialable at only 60 words/second. We have our own data line, which runs to a small (£1,000) satellite dish in the back garden. We got this originally for the DBS tel-

Apple Macintosh. Some people call it the "Flat Mac". It's a Dynabook — we each have our own — is the size and weight of a copy of Vogue, but smarter. The main features are a typewriter keyboard and a flip-up screen. A touch-sensitive panel does the work of the mouse (as on the Gavilan). It has a built-in modem, so we can phone Chip from outside the house. It also has an infra-red connector on the back (like the ACT Portable and IBM PCjr) to provide a cordless terminal. Indoors we can communicate with Chip via adaptors on the terminal sockets without plugging in a cable.

Most reading and writing is done on the Dynabook's LCD screen. When colour graphics and sound are required for pictures, educational programs or games, hitting a key switches the output to the nearest television set — there's one in every room.

Chip can run most commercial software, because his 32-bit cpu can handle anything written for the Motorola 68000 series — Macintosh, or Atari ST, or Unix — and do a passable imitation of most 8-bit and 16-bit chips.

Some arcade games run slower than the originals — it's one of the few limitations of the system. But anyone who really wants to play games can buy one of the £100 to £150 specialised machines from Atari, Commodore or Sinclair. There's really no point in using a real Home Micro for such a trivial task, is there?

Daniel Valence reviews the latest books on computer technology

Silicon Valley of despond

BRITAIN has more computers per capita than anywhere else on earth. Yet despite this and our supposed ability to innovate the balance of payments in information technology has worsened to a deficit of £2.8 billion, ten times worse than it was in 1980. Is there anything we can do about it? Neither Silicon Valley Fever (£12.95, Allen & Unwin) which analyses the dizzy race to 30 by 10 mile strip of polluted land between San Francisco and San Jose nor Silicon Landscapes (Allen & Unwin, £18 or £5.95 paperback) provide much encouragement.

In Silicon Landscapes (edited by Peter Hall and Ann Markusen) it is argued that the success of this country's nearest equivalent to Silicon Valley — the sunrise corridor straddling the M4 — is only partly due to an explosion of high tech. And where it can be traced to the public sector, stimulus was probably more due to the piecemeal existence of Government research establishments (Aldermaston Harwell, Farnborough and so forth) than to spin off from the sort of university research which spawned the Stanford Research Institute outside the campus gates in California.

The authors call for "a new articulation of scientific educational policies and regional industrial policies" (whatever that means) if there is to be any chance of a selective regeneration of older industrial regions and cities.

Reading Silicon Valley Fever (by Judith K. Larson and Everett M. Rogers) you wonder what they are making all that money for. High incidence of divorce, alcoholism, and teenage disturbance, may be a small price to pay for the success of the area's 15,000 millionaires.

But what of the bottom of the heap — the thousands of unemployed, many of them illegal immigrants, paid 50 cents to "stuff" each circuit board in hundreds of moonlit back-garages? The international economy is low wages to immigrants in to take the work to developing nations to assemble where wages range from five per cent of the US norm (Indonesia) to 35 per cent in Hong Kong.

Even the all conquering IBM has succumbed. Most of its personal computers (including monitor, printer, disk drive, keyboard and power supply) are made in the Far East. California retains the vital knowledge of how to design and make a computer, the rest is subcontracted out in a vain attempt to beat the Japanese. The only consolation we have is that the US balance of payments in information technology has collapsed from a surplus of nearly \$10.8 billion in 1980 to a deficit of almost \$US 7 billion last year.

One alternative to farming out assembly to low income nations is to invest heavily in robotics so that large scale automated production lines can restore the UK's lost competitiveness and preserve islands of value added in this country.

In The Robotics Revolution (Basil Blackwell, £19.50) Peter R. Scott argues that it hasn't really started yet and it will really be into the twentieth century before we experience truly integrated robotic systems and they will mainly be in factories, rather than in homes.

Micro-Maths (Macmillan paperback, £5.95) is a collection of Keith Devlin's tantalising articles in the Guardian on mathematics for Everyman. Halley's Comet (by Donald Tattersfield, Blackwell) combines a readable layman's account of Halley's comet (not actually discovered by the man whose name it bears) with mathematics and computer programs for the initiated.

Epson Printer (Susan Curran, Collins paperback, £7.95) provides a much needed guide to Epson, one of the world's best hot matrix printers with one of the world's worst user manuals.

Professional and Business Uses Of The QL (Colin Lewis, Collins paperback, £7.95) provides a good introduction to the QL and the four pieces of software that come with it — wordprocessor, graphics database, spreadsheet, The Which? software guide reviews 1,000 programs mainly for the Spectrum, Commodore 64 and BBC Micro.

Century Communications have published books on the QL, Easel and Quill programs (£7.95 each) written in close cooperation with PSION (designers of the programs) which, while frustratingly untechnical about the shortcomings of the software, are very practical guides and stimulate answers to the perennial question "Yes, but what can you do with it?" There is, however, far too little space devoted to the problems of using a printer. The International Handbook (not to be confused with a real book about hacking under the same name) has been released by Longmans at £5.95 each with different versions for the BBC, Commodore and ZX Spectrum. The books are really about getting your computer to communicate with other computers down the telephone line.

Will You Still Love Me When I'm 64 by Peter Garsard (Duckworth £5.95) is devoted purely to sound on the 64. The chip that makes the music, the 6581 Sound Interface Device, is one of the 64's strongpoints.

If ring modulation and envelope generation are not your cup of tea, don't put off. There are still many sample and hold programs included, covering three part harmony, a synthesiser, generating sound effects, adding new musical keywords, and background tunes.

Seeing is believing only if the video is adequate. Christine Tongue reports on computer training

When the answer's not on the screen

FINDING OUT about computers easily and quickly is a major problem — and video, in theory, is the ideal solution.

After all, video, like the computer, is a visual medium. It can show how a computer program works faster than thousands of pages of printed text. Better, it can demonstrate a computer solving practical problems, exactly what most people need to see. Videos can be taken home and used for self-teaching or employed in the classroom as a focus for discussion.

But there is a dire shortage of videos of the right kind and many are absurdly overpriced. Traditional training film companies such as John Cleese's Video Arts are reluctant to involve themselves deeply in computer-related video programmes, because they see "ephemera". They look for three to four years life out of each production they undertake. By the time computer video is a year old, it's out of date.

Video Arts-type films will set you back anything from £400 and upwards to buy and £100 odd to hire — prices for corporations rather than people.

Further confusing the scene is a barrage of propaganda from bodies such as British Telecom, which are determined to promote technology as a cure-all to society's ills. Uncritical, simplistic and ridden with hype, such videos do more to turn people off the new technology than aid understanding. This goes also for the productions turned out by the Manpower Services Commission, whose object seems to be to soften up new recruits to the computerised workplaces.

The first gleams of light at the end of this gloomy tunnel have come with a new series of videos called Computers in Action. Produced by London-based TV Choice, the videos demonstrate computers and related technology being used to solve common business problems in typical working offices.

Latest and best in the series is a 60-minute production called The Business Microcomputer. Presented by the BBC's inquisitive Chris Serle, the video contains five case studies which, rather than drowning on about bits, bytes

and the mysteries of programming, illustrate clearly and forcibly the application of the microcomputer to practical headaches, from putting together a presentation for a demanding chairman to working out a new pricing plan for the company's product range.

Particularly helpful is the way the video explores a wide range of microcomputer technology from the smallest portable to large-scale multi-user systems.

Also in the Computers in Action series is The Automated Office — a documentary which explores both the ergonomic and technological implications of introducing new technology in to the office. All the videos in this series are priced at £25 — a major breakthrough in the inflated video marketplace.

Compare these videos to the efforts of more conventional video houses such as Guild and you realise what a bargain they represent. Guild's two-part Word Processing costs about £150 and confines itself to a laborious demonstration of one basic mode of rather old of date word processing equipment. Video Arts' What Is A Word Processor, starring John Cleese as an evil boss, tackles the same area, rather more entertainingly, but is now also out of date and costs an enormous £485.

Case histories showing how new technology is introduced into offices are tailor-made for video treatment — but until recently there has been a shortage of material in this area. For example, Somebody Told Me from Millbank Films is a hit head-on public relations exercise designed to allay staff fears about how new technology will affect their jobs.

But more realistic both in price and content is Working Terms from Team Video. Priced at £35, the video explores in depth the way new technology is introduced into the typing pool and housing benefits department of Thameside Council. Sponsored by the union NALGO, the video hits head-on the critical issues such as deskilling, regrading and retraining and the problems of reaching agreement between union and management over new technology.

The BBC's response to the needs of computer education has been to sell its Electronic



Chris Serle in The Business Computer, latest and best

From high tech to feeling low: Peter Brock examines the evidence for the rise of video blues

Seated one day at the VDT they were weary and ill at ease

WHILE occupational health workers and other researchers hang on about possible radiation hazards posed by visual display terminals, the evidence of psychosocial damage grows almost daily on both sides of the Atlantic. Dr Leon Warshaw, clinical professor of environmental medicine at New York University, says that VDT operators are vulnerable to stress-related disorders ranging from insomnia to depression. At the root is job dissatisfaction and loss of job security.

He and several other doctors have coined the term "video blues" to describe the syndrome of fatigue, physical isolation, monotony, and so on. And they point out that there is no paradox in the operators' fear for their jobs. Dr Warshaw says that with the boom in electronic production

and crunching jobs, "fear of job loss is no less potent among workers who will be retained, than among those whose jobs are being abolished."

In the United States there are some ten million electronic "work stations," and the number is likely to grow to 50 million by the end of the eighties. Dr Arthur Frank of Kentucky University points to a counter-productive trend which is developing in step with the VDT blues. During a two-and-a-half year study, he discovered that people who manned VDTs were more often fired than those who worked at a desk, taken on a national basis, is already costing the American economy around 500 million dollars a year.

Ominous signs are already showing in Britain, according to Dr Cary Cooper, professor of industrial psychology at the University of Manchester

operator off the machine to carry out work of their own.

"The secretaries and copy typists said that they felt they had career possibilities because they deal with people who notice them for instance, they get letters, personal letters. They learn about the organisation and its politics and feel that they have a chance for the more senior clerical jobs."

Professor Cooper added that more and more people who operate word processors are having to do the job full time and find themselves losing their office mobility. Once they are anchored to the VDT they become detached from the organisation's informal network. "You would think that because they have access to information about the company, they would be in a position to study all the facts — but they simply don't have the time to do so. They are too busy."

Here, he and Dr Cox uncovered another problem — management expecting too much from the machine and its operators with the result that the women were overloaded with work. Anxiety and depression followed. They feel that before the VDT blues pervade Britain, management should design careers for people who are to work at the lower end of computer operations.

Professor Cooper and a colleague may soon undertake a study for a major union which, on the basis of anecdotal evidence, has found that there have been a higher number of "mis marriages among women working with VDTs than might be expected in the general population."

In New York, Dr Warshaw is not sold on this argument. The alleged radiation hazards are not supported by research findings, he says. He feels that a confounding factor is

the continued reporting of clusters of miscarriages — the National Association of Working Women has located 15 such clusters — causing stress in many women. "The perception that a hazard might exist can be more potent as a stressor than the hazard itself."

It is the so-called confounding factor that has caught the interest of Professor Cooper. "The miscarriages, if they exist in greater numbers than usual, could be caused by the stress of the job rather than the radiation, although radiation may be a factor, and possible interactions must be investigated," he said.

At present, though, he and Dr Cox are more concerned with the clearly demonstrated stress problems and how to stamp them out before the VDT and its attached human is standard equipment in every office and factory.

Marketing Agent for HM Customs & Excise Bill of Entry Service

HM Customs and Excise are considering the appointment of a marketing agent to take over and develop the service currently undertaken by their own Bill of Entry section. The agent would distribute trade statistics by electronic and other suitable media.

Any agent appointed is likely to be an established computer bureau with the capacity to take on and maintain a substantial database (300 Mb per month) and have the experience and resources to market the product vigorously.

The Bill of Entry Service is the principal supplier of detailed statistical data on the UK's overseas trade, and is able to supply details on more than 9,000 commodity headings on trade in 200 countries.

Any organisation interested in learning more of this project should contact Miss Laura Foote, HM Customs & Excise, Statistical Office, Portcullis House, Victoria Avenue, Southend. Tel 349421 Ext 320 before May 2 1985.

OUR SUCCESS! YOUR FUTURE?

GEORGE DAVIES, chief executive of J. Hepworth & Son plc, has been named **The Guardian Young Businessman of the Year**.

Mr Davies, aged 43, joined Hepworth in 1961, and revitalised the company with the launch of the Next chain of women's clothing shops. Next was a rotating phenomenon, and in three years 200 shops opened country-wide.

THE GUARDIAN
March 25 1985

The autumn launch of Next women's range has been the "most successful" since the company was launched. **FINANCIAL TIMES**, October 5th.

The Next chain of shops has revolutionised the retail clothing market in this country. Next's success has been a real triumph for the retail industry.

Hepworth's dramatic change of image from a staid menswear retailer to a fashion leader has been matched by a move to take its stores into the forefront of retail technology.

COMPUTING THE MAGAZINE
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Male or female candidates please apply for an application form quoting Ref. SPS 4/85 to:

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HEPWORTH COMPUTER SERVICES

PROJECT LEADER

Senior Appointment

IBM SNA

to £17,000

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BERKSHIRE



SavaCentre

Please write with full CV or telephone for an application form and further information to: Margot Turner, SavaCentre Limited, 45-47 Peach Street, Wokingham, Berkshire RG11 1XJ. Tel: (0734) 791500 ext. 295.

SavaCentre — jointly owned by J. Sainsbury and British Home Stores — was formed in 1977 and now operates 6 substantial hypermarkets with an annual turnover in excess of £250m.

This enviable growth in sales and profits demanded an extensive programme of computerisation which began in 1983 to further improve business systems and provide a sound base for future expansion.

A firm commitment to remain leaders in the field of hypermarket retailing through innovation in information systems has created the need for a **PROJECT LEADER** to play a major role in our next phase of systems design.

The 40 strong Systems Department was formed from scratch in 1983 and already has a reputation for implementing quality systems within agreed timescales. As a key member of the department, you will have the opportunity to benefit from:

- direct contact with senior management
- planned training — both business and technical
- a three year strategic plan
- advanced IBM development techniques using work benches for programming and design
- production systems which incorporate IBM to PC mainframe communications, hand-held data capture and advanced networking.

You should have the rare combination of sound business knowledge, management skills and a motivating personality to turn user requirements into effective systems that improve profitability.

Future career progression is based on merit. The opportunities are best illustrated by:

- 10 internal promotions within the last 6 months
- the Board's continuing commitment to new development investment
- a company car at the next grade.



NATIONAL OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMISSION

CHAIRPERSON

\$A65,417 per annum

(plus \$A1900 p.a. expense of office allowance)

The Australian Government is seeking a suitably qualified man or woman for the position of Chairperson.

The Australian Government is committed to improving national performance in the field of occupational health and safety and has set up a tripartite National Occupational Health and Safety Commission to implement a national occupational health and safety strategy. Legislation establishing the Commission as a statutory body is expected to be introduced into Parliament during the Autumn Session 1985.

The Commission's main objectives are to:

- develop and facilitate the implementation of a national occupational health and safety policy;
- provide a forum for State Government, employer and employee participation in the development and formulation of occupational health and safety policies;
- develop and facilitate the implementation of a co-ordinated national action plan;
- evaluate progressively the implementation of the national occupational health and safety strategy;
- act as a national focus for occupational health and safety activity; develop an increased public awareness of such issues and facilitate broad public debate on them.

The Commission will be supported by a National Occupational Health and Safety Office as its operational arm and a National Institute of Occupational Health and Safety as its scientific and technical arm.

Duties:

The National Commission Chairperson will be Chief Executive of the National Commission and Director of the Office. The Institute will be managed by the Director of the Institute who will be responsible to the Commission Chairperson.

As Chief Executive of the National Commission the Chairperson shall be responsible for:

- the efficient operation and management of the Commission, committees established under the auspices of the Commission, and staff of the Office and Institute;
- implementing the policies of the Commission and the plans and directives of its Executive;
- facilitating liaison between Commonwealth and State Governments, employer and employee representatives;
- performing such duties as assigned to the Chairperson by the Commission or the Executive; and
- reporting periodically to the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations on implementation of national standards and regulations and progress towards uniformity.

Qualifications and Experience:

1. Proven skill and experience in the management of major organisational change in a multidisciplinary organisation.
2. Knowledge of relevant scientific, medical, technical, social and industrial issues.
3. An understanding of the institutional framework within which occupational health, safety and welfare legislation is developed and administered, and the ability to communicate with those involved in that framework.
4. Ability to implement occupational health and safety policies within the Federal system and the industrial context.
5. Appropriate tertiary qualifications are desirable.

Conditions of Service:

Appointment will be for a term of up to five (5) years. Consideration will be given to reappointment.

Conditions include superannuation benefits, four weeks annual leave, cumulative sick leave entitlements and other general conditions applicable under the provisions of the Australian Public Service Act.

An appointee from overseas would be required to satisfy standard Australian Government immigration requirements.

Location:

Sydney; however, considerable travel to Canberra and other centres will be required.

Transport and Removal Assistance:

The cost of first class air fares for appointee, spouse and dependent children (where applicable) plus a reasonable contribution towards the cost of transporting essential personal and household effects and a short term accommodation allowance may be payable.

General:

Candidates must give personal particulars, qualifications, experience, bibliography, names and addresses and contact numbers of three referees, should be forwarded to: R. RANKIN, Personnel Services, Third Floor, Australia House, Strand LONDON WC2R 4LA by 9 May 1985.

Further Information:

For further information please telephone the above named on 01-436 8829 or write to the above address.

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EXAMINATIONS OFFICER

The CIT wishes to appoint immediately an officer to its central staff to be responsible for the administration of its examinations, conducted annually worldwide, with half the candidates from outside the UK. Additional duties include Committee work, dealing with exemptions and examination regulations and an increasing involvement in the work of the Institute overseas. Candidates should be graduates of a British University and preferably in corporate membership of the Institute. Responsibility will be directly to the Director of Education and Training, to whom application, including a CV, should be made by 3rd May.

Write to: 80 Portland Place, London W1N 4DP. Salary scale £8,000-£10,000 per annum.

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An architectural practice in Nigeria requires qualified Architects. Candidates will possess R.I.B.A. qualification along with experience in the design and supervision of high-rise buildings. Age 35-50 (Married or Single status).

Initial Contract: 2-3 years. Location: Lagos, Nigeria. We offer a very attractive salary and both accommodation and transport are provided.

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13 Eastcheap, London EC3M 1BU,
or telephone 01-626 5361 or 626 0897 (Telex no. 881334S)

NOTTING DALE TECHNOLOGY CENTRE

COMPUTING INSTRUCTOR

Notting Dale Technology Centre (ITC) trains young unemployed people in Computing, Electronics, Office Skills and Life and Social Skills. Established four years ago, we are now working under the Youth Training Scheme, and are looking for a Computing Instructor. You should have experience in at least two of the following areas: Visual aids & networking; Applications Software (graphics, business packages, etc); Microcomputer Systems & Interfacing; Programming; LOGO.

The ability to motivate and work with 16-17 year old students (mainly from ethnic minorities) is essential, teaching experience would be an advantage. You should also be willing to use and develop the Centre's resources (including written teaching materials) effectively. The Centre plans to provide training for adults alongside the YTS course in the near future.

A degree or equivalent qualification in a science or technical subject is preferable, but not essential. All applicants will be considered on the basis of their suitability for the post, regardless of sex, race, marital status or disability.

Salary £9,350 p.a.
For an application form and further details please contact: Reg Edwood, NDTCC, 191 Preston Road, London W10 6TH. Telephone: 01-969 0819.

Aircrewmembers Training Officer

The Qatar Emiri Air Force has a requirement for an Aircrewmembers Training Officer on Western European Helicopters.

Qualifications: A recognised Service Instructor's Course in the training of Helicopter Aircrewmembers. A current AT Medical Certificate. The ability to organise and administer a comprehensive programme of Aircrewmembers training. The necessary age on appointment will be 45 years.

Experience: Recent and substantial experience in the training of Helicopter Aircrewmembers. Personal experience of operational duties as a Search and Rescue pilot or driver on Sea King Helicopters. A minimum of 1500 hours flying experience on helicopters, the majority on Sea King helicopters.

Conditions of Service:

Rank: The successful candidate will be appointed on the appropriate rank (Vet) for an initial contract period of 3 years.

Salary: The Basic Salary of the rank of Qatar Emiri Air Force (QAF) - monthly - is commensurate with allowances.

Leave: Leave entitlement is 30 days p.a. with passage paid for the Officer's wife and 3 children up to the age of 18 years.

Accommodation: Free furnished and air-conditioned married accommodation will be allocated after a probationary period.

Application: Should include full CV, including flying experience and be made to:

Commander,
Qatar Emiri Air Force, P.O. Box 2238, Doha - Qatar

Short-listed candidates will be invited to interview in Qatar (all expenses paid).

TAKING A JOB OVERSEAS. If you are considering applying for a job abroad you should, in your own best interests, investigate fully terms and conditions of employment and ascertain restrictions that apply to currency earned in the particular country where the post is offered before acceptance.

STATES OF GUERNSEY

ISLAND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

SENIOR PLANNING ASSISTANT

Salary scale £10,794 — £11,481
(1985 salary award pending)

An experienced Planner is required to carry out a wide range of development control duties including applications on Listed Buildings.

The job could be of particular interest to persons used to dealing with applications in conservation areas.

Applicants should preferably hold an appropriate planning qualification and have had considerable experience in architectural matters and/or general environmental design.

The post is at second tier level and the applicant will be expected to deputise for the Planning Officer in his absence in matters of development control.

Further details of the post and an application form may be obtained from the Establishment Officer, Civil Service Board, Nelson Place, Smith Street, St. Peter Port, Guernsey (Tel: 0481 26111).

The closing date for applications is 22nd May, 1985.



BOLTON METROPOLITAN COLLEGE

Principal: Colin R. Terry

Bolton Metropolitan College is a large, multi-site N.A.F.E. College with a broad range of course provision, from traditional technician and craft level work to non-formal community education.

VICE-PRINCIPAL (FINANCE AND RESOURCES)

Group 8: £20,589 to £21,459 (under review)

The vacancy has arisen through promotion and is available from 1st September, 1985. There are two Vice-Principals; the other has major responsibilities for the Curriculum and Staffing.

Applicants must have appropriate academic qualifications and relevant experience at a senior level in Further Education. Particular skills and competences in resource management and systems would be a distinct advantage.

Further details and application forms (to be returned by 3rd May, 1985) from: The Chief Administrative Officer, Bolton Metropolitan College, Manchester Road, Bolton BL2 1ER, telephone 0204 31411 Ext. 207.

BOLTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER.

Head Physicist

Vickers Shipbuilding and Engineering Limited, a subsidiary of British Shipbuilders, is a leader in submarine and surface vessel design. We need a Senior Physicist - Head of Shielding Section - to take charge of this section of the naval Architects Department.

This is the senior post, in a small team of physicists responsible for the design of radiation shielding on board nuclear submarines, together with other related radiation studies. The duties include the development of design methods and control of experimental and radiation survey measurements. A BSc (Hons) in Physics and preferably a higher degree is required, with a minimum of ten years post-graduate experience in Nuclear Physics, and Radiation Shielding, including calculation and measurement techniques. Computer on-line terminals to large in-house machines provide the main facilities for design calculations.

There is a graded salary structure and future prospects are catered for by a Staff Development Scheme and Promotional Review Board. Where appropriate, assistance will be given with relocation costs, including temporary accommodation allowance and, in the case of house owners, legal and other fees connected with house purchase in this most pleasant part of England, on the fringe of the Lake District National Park.

For an application form please telephone our Personnel Department on 0229 20351 Extension 5520 or write enclosing full CV to: Personnel Manager, Vickers Shipbuilding and Engineering Limited, P.O. Box 6, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria LA14 1AB.

Applications invited from either sex.

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A spring selection for Real Time Software Consultants, Designers & Programmers

Whether in defence, aerospace, energy, industry, telecommunications or finance, Systems Designers International is the one company pushing back the technological barriers and growing steadily stronger by employing only top quality staff.

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Major Application Areas	Office to Reply in
Defence Systems (operational and simulation for air, surface and sub surface)	Canbury or Manchester
Communications (supervisory control and information systems)	Any
Supervisory Control & Information Systems	Canbury or Manchester
Software Technology Products Development	Canbury
Knowledge Engineering	Canbury
Project and Product Development for Banking, BT/POPS	Canbury
Public & Private Videotex	Canbury
Many different computers are used but experience of VAX, IBM or Micro Computers is of particular interest.	Canbury or Manchester

Select the type of work you are interested in and then contact us. We have vacancies in London, Manchester, Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Dorset and Holland, Sweden and Italy.

A broad salary range is offered, from £10,000 for those with one or two years' experience through to £18,000 for Project Leaders and around £21,000 for Managers.

Please ring or write with full CV, quoting reference G/184 to: Personnel Services, Canbury Ltd, 200, Canbury Road, Canbury, Surrey GU11 1UP.

Marlyn Hardwick, Personnel Services Designers, Systems Designers International plc, Systems House, 105 Fleet Road, Fleet, Hampshire GU11 8NZ.

John Clegg, Manchester 061-442 9552, Systems Designers International plc, Bazzardale House, Bazzardale Road, Haslemere, Surrey GU27 3BA.

Chris Beattie, 01-634 7833, Systems Designers International plc, 12-14 Windmill Street, London W1P 1HF.

Alternatively see next week's trade papers for details of referred interviews.

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John Feriton, SYSTEMS ENGINEER

SYSTEMS ENGINEERS • ANALOGUE DESIGNERS
ELECTRONIC DESIGN ENGINEERS • DIGITAL DESIGNERS
FLIGHT SYSTEMS ANALYSTS. Call FREEPHONE 9341 or alternatively, write to Duncan Westernman, Personnel Manager at the address shown below.

SMITHS INDUSTRIES
Aerospace & Defence Systems
BISHOP'S CLEEVE, CHELTENHAM, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Business Systems Director

Butterworth Services Ltd., wish to appoint a Director with responsibility for conducting a total review of our systems and dataflows. We already have highly computerised systems and we have a lively P.C. application project but the existing hardware is due for replacement and this provides the opportunity for a total rethink of all systems not just of computer applications.

The person appointed will probably be an MBA, and certainly will be able to convey ideas verbally and in report form to all levels of staff. Line management experience and sound accountancy background will be as significant as D.P. or O.D.M. expertise. When this task is done there could be opportunities for broadening a career into Publishing.

Salary not less than £18k but could be higher; BUPA, Company Car, Contributory Pension.

Location a rural site near Borough Green, Kent. A Relocation package will be offered if appropriate.

Butterworth Services are part of Butterworth & Co. (Publishers) Ltd. who in turn are a Reed International Company.

Applications by letter with full cv to: A. H. Evans, Personnel Director, Butterworth & Co. (Publishers) Ltd., Borough Green, Kent.

Butterworths

JUNIOR SECRETARY IN MANAGEMENT OFFICE THE GUARDIAN

We are looking for a secretary with very good speeds (minimum 110/60 shorthand/typing) who has at least one year's experience, preferably at senior management level. You will be employed, to assist the secretary to the Chairman and Managing Director, should be capable of dealing with people at all levels and have an impeccable telephone manner. Duties will be wide-ranging, word processor experience is useful, and the quality of your work will need to be of the highest standard. The post is vacant now and you should write, enclosing a cv, to:

Miss M. Collingborn, Personnel Manager, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3EP.

ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL LONGDALE ROAD, BARNES, SW13 9JT requires a DEPUTY ENGINEER

The successful applicant will have served an engineering apprenticeship, or have had a wide experience of electrical and heating installations and building maintenance. He/she will also have had experience in the control of staff and preferably be between the ages of 35 and 45. A generous salary, which will be adjusted to accord with the successful applicant's qualifications and experience, is offered for this appointment, which is permanent. Applications, with curriculum vitae, should be sent to the Bursar, at the above address.

SPEAK WELL?

Start soon? Need to earn £600+ per week? If so and you have a good cv in industry, sales, banking or the services, we are aged 25-55 and can work in our YWZ offices nationwide. No experience needed, we train you. No car needed, no evening or weekend work. Report Tel: 01-650 9922

WORK IN LEISURE

Full time opportunities to work with children in leisure centres, sports centres or active leisure centres. Good salary, good benefits, a wide range of interesting and challenging roles at leisure centres. Apply to: PGL Young Adults, 194 Strand Street, Slough, Wiltshire SL1 2JH. Tel: (0753) 84211

GLC Working for London Central Computer Service

A long standing and committed user of advanced hardware and software technology, the GLC's Central Computer Service has never been slow to respond to technological change. This continues to give rise to new openings for senior computing professionals capable of helping the Council and its other public authorities to exploit the full potential of these facilities.

Customer Services Manager
The Customer Services Branch is the focus for all general communications with internal and external users, and their first point of contact. Its Manager is responsible for co-ordinating all support in both the office automation and conventional D.P. areas - including monitoring service standards, customer queries and complaints - and providing specialist advice and guidance to the D.P. management team.

Proven management experience and experience in the direction of D.P. services is a must, with the capacity to take both an analytical and practical approach and to establish strong personal contacts at all levels.

Salary: £18,489 - £20,349 inclusive.

External Affairs Manager
An innovative senior manager is required to direct the work of a range of divisions implementing initiatives with little or no precedent. Besides co-ordinating and promoting GLC services to external users, including the London Boroughs and other public authorities, there is particular responsibility for organising Information Handling Groups for each internal department, directing the Council's Computer Workshop and implementing its Data Protection Policy.

A broad understanding of I.T. developments and their potential application within London's public sector is essential, together with the ability to establish effective top-level contacts, to identify policy users and instigate programmes of action.

Salary: £18,489 - £20,349 inclusive.

Training Manager
A solid professional base in computing combined with formal teaching/university skills of a high order are essential for the effective formulation, review and update of the Council's total computing training programme and policy. There are three main areas of responsibility: management of the GLC's Information Training Centre; identification, development and implementation of courses/facilities to meet the technical training needs of staff within the CCS and the Council's service as a whole; and overseeing the provision of an advisory service to voluntary and community groups, London Boroughs, public authorities and other outside bodies.

The capacity to analyse, structure and present training to people with a wide background of experience and ability is therefore prerequisite together with first rate organisational and management skills. Equally important are an understanding of staff development and a commitment to its use in promoting equal opportunities.

Salary: £16,629 - £18,489 inclusive.

The GLC is an equal opportunities employer. We invite applications from women and men from all sections of the community, irrespective of their ethnic origin, colour, sexual orientation or disability, who have the necessary attributes to do the job.

For an application form, to be returned by 3rd May 1985, write to: GLC Central Computer Service Department, Room 683, The County Hall, SE1 7PB or telephone 01-633 6083.

These posts are suitable for job sharing

UNIVERSITY OF DUNDEE "New Blood" Lectureship ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT

This post, created under the University Grants Committee's "New Blood" scheme to enable the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Sciences to enhance its existing capabilities in Engineering Management, is open to candidates with good engineering degrees and at least two years industrial experience and also to those with degrees in other disciplines but more extensive experience in engineering management. The successful candidate will be less than 35 years' old, dynamic, and highly motivated towards the development of new methods of post-graduate teaching and research in Engineering Management. An ability to contribute to undergraduate teaching of production or design would be helpful.

The appointment will be made on the scale £7,550 - £14,425 (1984-85) with pension rights and other benefits in accordance with the University's terms and conditions of service. The successful candidate will be expected to contribute to the development of the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Sciences and to engage in exciting and worthwhile work in an important but hitherto neglected field.

Further particulars are available from The Personnel Officer, The University, Dundee DD1 4JH (telephone Dundee 22811, ext. 401), to whom applications containing full career details and the names of three referees (one academic and one industrial) should be sent by 7th May, 1985. Informal enquiries may be addressed to Dr R. M. W. Horne (ext. 4350).

The Second Lecturer will probably have research interests in computer systems and/or communications but also an appreciation of any specialisation within computer science is invited to apply. Funds for further posts are expected. The computing officer will undertake a small amount of teaching, but is primarily responsible for the design, construction and maintenance of the software and hardware required to support the research and teaching programmes of the department.

Salary scale (under review): Lecturer £7,550 - £14,425; Computing Officer £4,800 - £12,150 with placement according to age, qualifications and experience.

Applications by letter, including a curriculum vitae and the names of three referees, should be sent to: The Second Lectureship, Dundee University, Old College, South Bridge, Dundee DD1 1TA, from whom further particulars may be obtained. Closing date May 3, 1985. Late applications might be considered for the late AUC post, and two copies of the application and quote reference No. 172. For the other posts, send one copy and quote reference No. 173.

Greenwich Colleges LECTURERS

Required in the following disciplines: Accounting, Advertising, Banking, Computer Studies, Finance, International Affairs, Management, Marketing and Quantitative Methods. Vacancies exist on courses commencing in late April and in mid-June, 1985. Previous applicants need not re-apply. Full details are available from Mr P. Lowe, Greenwich College, Maritime House, Royal Hill, Greenwich, London SE18 6RL. Tel: 01-453 4484, ext. 25.

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This is a new appointment in a young, rapidly expanding business. In seven years our enterprising clients have built up a professionally managed and extremely profitable wholesale furniture business with a turnover of £2m. of which about half comes from exports. The company has recently founded a charitable trust to operate in the Third World.

The company requires an enterprising and innovative manager to create a new department at its Head Office. Initially you will manage a busy general office using computerised systems and controlling seven staff. This will provide ideal experience for promotion to General Manager of a new subsidiary scheduled for 1986/87.

Candidates will be graduates, probably under 30, with at least two years successful experience in business or possibly in a profession such as education. A logical, analytical approach is essential. In addition you must be in tune with the overall philosophy of a small, socially responsible management team.

First year earnings around £12,500 with a review after six months and substantial profit share after one year's service. Relocation assistance where appropriate.

Please write - in confidence - indicating present salary and how these requirements are met to R. M. Cooper ref. C.60772.

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ENFIELD up to £9,528

Eastern Gas are looking for an enthusiastic graduate to join the Operational Research Group based at Enfield.

You will be involved in a wide variety of operational research projects, ranging from example from planning adequate gas supplies for cold weather to determining the correct stock of spare parts to hold in a customer service van. This will involve close work with a number of departments within Eastern Gas.

To apply, you should have a good degree in a numerical discipline and be able to demonstrate an interest both in identifying client problems and applying appropriate analytical and computing techniques.

Salary is within the range £7,162 to £8,413, and up to £9,528 for applicants with relevant experience.

For an application form, please contact the Recruitment Manager, quoting Ref. 6017, at Eastern Gas, Star House, Mutton Lane, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 2PD. Tel: Potters Bar 51151 ext. 584.

Closing date for applications: 2nd May 1985.

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Full relocation package to £15,000 p.a.

At their rural location, in easy reach of all cultural and sporting amenities, our clients are investing millions per annum in R & D. Their projects include photographic techniques, integrated circuits, speech recognition and synthesis and advanced avionics technology.

Their current requirements include:

SYSTEMS ENGINEERS with good communication skills, microprocessor knowledge and preferably avionics experience.

DESIGN ENGINEERS with digital or analogue circuit design experience.

An excellent benefits package is offered to experienced graduate engineers with a desire to join multi-disciplinary project teams in a stimulating and demanding environment.

For further information, telephone Beverly Leonard on Bristol (0272) 277196, or send your full CV (in confidence) to:

The Recruitment Partnership (Ref: GP102) 3 Marsh Street, Bristol BS1 1RT

The Recruitment Partnership

MANAGER PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT FOR THE WELDING INDUSTRY

Spectrum (St Helena) Ltd wishes to engage the services of a person with some background experience in welding and, in particular, the methods of work and the hazards involved in welding. The company intends to expand its sales to welding distributors, both at home and abroad, of the range of gas and electric welding fittings, welding helmets and headhobs.

The position, for which initial training will be given, could provide an exciting career opportunity for a person of initiative.

Please write with personal details to: The Chairman, Spectrum (St Helena) Ltd, West Street, Thatch Heath, ST HELENA, Monmouthshire, WA15 3DE.

LEICESTER POLYTECHNIC School of Electronic and Electrical Engineering PRINCIPAL LECTURER IN DIGITAL COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS

POST REF. 422 Salary £20,000 - £14,500 (1985) £14,500 per annum (pay award pending)

Applications are invited for this important post from candidates who have a first class honours degree in the general area of digital communication systems with information technology as an important theme.

Significant industrial and research experience is one or more of the following would be an advantage:

- (i) computer networks
- (ii) the technology of office systems
- (iii) integrated service digital networks
- (iv) transmission systems

Candidates should possess a degree and Corporate Membership of an appropriate institution. There are excellent opportunities for the development of research and consultancy.

Application forms and further particulars available from the Personnel Officer, Leicester Polytechnic, P.O. Box 143, Leicester LE1 7RH. Tel: (0533) 531791, ext. 2281.

THE ASSOCIATED EXAMINING BOARD The Board is seeking to appoint a COMPUTER STATISTICIAN

to work in the Statistics Department in close collaboration with the Research Unit using a Honeywell DPM668 based on a Level 16 with database advising an computerised data analysis, writing programs and managing data operating the computer. A first class honours degree in Statistics is essential, some familiarity with Basic and/or C++ is desirable. Detailed experience would be helpful. Further training in any or all of these is available.

An understanding of Statistics to at least 'A' level standard is essential.

The Statistics Department is in Aldershot at present and will transfer to Stag Hill, Guildford in October.

The starting salary is up to about £2,500 according to qualifications and experience with further advancement to over £2,800 awarded.

Telephone or write to the Personnel Officer, Wellington House, Aldershot, GU11 3JH. Send an application form. The closing date is 3rd May, 1985.

Materials Scientists £11-£12.5k Scotland

Our Client is a leader in the field of electro-optics with an enviable international reputation in this spectrum of technologies. The Company is regarded as highly innovative, very competitive, and its success is rooted in its considerable investment in R & D.

They now have a requirement for two Materials Scientists - one to work on materials of a crystalline nature and the other to concentrate on glass materials.

We are seeking suitably qualified applicants who possess the analytical and interpretive intellect which would have attracted them to do post graduate work in the materials science field, perhaps towards a PhD. The work requires both intellectual deductive capacity, and practical skills which must be married to a commercial awareness.

The Company is part of a major UK group and offers the range of benefits this suggests.

The ideal age range is 25-40 years and applicants should write, in strict confidence, enclosing a full CV, to Vac Slater.

FREMANTLE & CO. 1st Floor 43/44 Albemarle Street London W1X 3FE
Personnel & Recruitment Consultants

Assistant Landscape Manager

Opportunity in Landscape Design

The work involves laying out and designing new landscape schemes on land attached to Prison Department establishments. You will provide technical advice, draught and prepare plans and drawings, examine and approve expenditure on materials, machinery and repairs, and supervise and report on progress of site works. A good working knowledge of horticulture, arboriculture and large scale landscape construction and layout is required.

This post is currently based in Surbiton, Surrey but in 1986 will be moved to Croydon.

You must have a degree or equivalent qualification in horticulture, landscape design or a relevant subject and have at least

4 years relevant experience. Salaries: 59916-612355 (including 5520 outer London weighting) with starting salary according to qualifications and experience. SALARIES UNDER REVIEW. RELOCATION EXPENSES UP TO £5000 MAY BE AVAILABLE. For further information regarding the duties involved please contact Mr Gilliland on 01-599 5191 ext. 428. For further details and an application form (to be returned by 10 May 1985) write to Civil Service Commission, Alcon Link, Basingstoke, Hants, RG21 1JB or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 468551 (answering service operates outside office hours). Please quote ref: Y/6514.

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ERIC SILVER reports from Madras on India's soft tread round Sri Lanka's deepening civil strife

Why Tamils reject Jayewardene's concessions

SHORT of exceptional pressure from the Indian government, the Sri Lankan civil war looks like continuing unabated. Leaders of all the Tamil groups, from the most moderate to the most belligerent, yesterday rejected Colombo's offer of a ceasefire, followed by negotiations for a political solution to the island's ethnic conflict.

From their separate bases in the South Indian town of Madras, the Tamils are digging in for a long haul, the politicians stepping up the propaganda campaign, the young fighters planning a new offensive.

Mr. Appapillai, the veteran general-secretary of the Tamil United Liberation Front, rejected the bait of constitutional concessions dangled last week by the national security minister, Mr. Lalith Ahamudurai. They failed, he insisted, to

deal with the fundamental issues, of which the same minister's policy of settling 200,000 members of the Sinhalese majority community in traditional Tamil areas was the most important.

"If the government is going to pursue that policy, the Tamil people can never agree," said Mr. Appapillai, who broke off negotiations with the government at the beginning of this year. "There cannot be a ceasefire, there cannot be negotiations, there cannot be a solution."

The TULF leader accused the Sinhalese settlers, many of them ex-servicemen, of invading Tamil homes, looting, raping and killing. "An essential and preliminary condition for any ceasefire and dialogue," he said, "is the immediate cessation of this settlement policy. The government must accept our homeland as

inviolable, and there should be a guarantee of the integrity of our territory. The government, while talking peace, is driving out Tamils from Trincomalee (in the Eastern province) and bringing in more Sinhalese."

Mr. Amirthalingam also demanded the withdrawal of troops and police commands from the Tamil areas of northern and eastern Sri Lanka. It was not enough, as Sinhalese had suggested, to confine them to barracks.

"We know from bitter experience the notoriously undisciplined Sri Lankan Army got out as they please," he said.

The TULF, whose 17 MPs resigned rather than swear an oath of allegiance to an undivided Sri Lanka, remains President Jinnas Jayawardene's best hope for a compromise solution, but its leaders know that they

can no longer act independently of the militants.

The "boys" for their part are closing ranks in their battle for a separate state of Tamil Eelam. The four most active groups sank their doctrinal differences earlier this month, bringing the Tamil Eelam Liberation Front, the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam under one banner.

The general secretary of the TULF, Mr. M. K. Eelavethan, said yesterday: "These groups will never bridge as much as they concept of Eelam. We can't agree to a ceasefire, unless the Sri Lankan government first recognises the concept of Eelam."

The concept of Eelam is not negotiable. What is negotiable is the shifting of population, transfer of assets, and

demarcation of the border area. There is no half-way house to freedom. We are fighting to regain the land we are losing. There is no hope at all. We have come to the parting of the ways."

The Tamil Tigers gave their own answer to government overtures last Wednesday when they attacked a police station in the centre of the northern capital, Jaffna. An Indian reporter who walked with them across the Palk Strait saw armed young men swarming around the town unchallenged by the security forces.

The director of the Tamil Information Office in Madras, Mr. S. Srinivasan, had no doubt that the radical alliance could veto any conciliatory initiative taken by the two groups which had stayed outside, TULF and the Marxist People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam,

which rejoices in the acronym, PLOT.

Despite rumours of an internal split, there seems little risk of a PLOT defection. A spokesman for the Marxist group, Mr. Raja Nithyan, said: "We would like to negotiate if the government could accept that the Tamils have a right to an independent sovereign state. We would accept nothing short of that because in the history of our struggle we have tried all and failed."

He dismissed as "bullshit" regional autonomy as floated by Colombo. "They are not going to give it and we are not going to accept it," Mr. Nithyan, who learned revolution at Middlesex Polytechnic, added that PLOT was preparing for a major military offensive, its first in three years.

"We have enough men to go for direct confrontation," he boasted, "we are getting

arms from those who support the anti-imperialist struggle. Our fighters are being trained by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine somewhere in the Middle East."

He would not say how many men PLOT had under arms, or where in the Middle East they were being trained. But this was the first indication that the Tamil separatists are still receiving help from the Palestinians. It will add fuel to President Jayawardene's claims that Sri Lanka's enemy is international terrorism.

India is the only outsider with leverage on both sides in the Sri Lankan conflict. The question remains how far Mr. Gandhi will go in twisting arms, not least because of the popular support for the Tamils in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu.

DIARY

NICHOLAS WINTERTON is evidently unrepentant about his association with the group WISE, one of the bodies at the centre of the Panorama programme about extreme right-wing infiltration of the Tory Party, for he is about to address another WISE meeting at the Institute of Directors.

Mr. Winton will be speaking about South Africa to a meeting on May 2. The WISE group was founded for WISE (Welsh, Irish, Scottish, English) by a patron of the 100, 94-year-old Sir William Steward, who lives in Malta.

Mr. Winton, who is suing Panorama over its programme, which followed young Conservative report denouncing WISE and advising that it should be prohibited, from using Tory premises for its meetings. Mr. Winton said last night that he had no active interest in the workings of WISE, which he called "a patriotic, perhaps even a nationalistic, organisation."

Mrs. Joan Mason, the eccentric organiser, said: "Mr. Winton is addressing a private meeting and I want to know how you got your rule and crude move into private business."

Shoot-in

THE young hooligan is back. Mr. H. H. H. is finding that his hobby of smashing up CND submarines is no bar to a full and successful political career in the Tory Party. The man who was sent home in disgrace from the Brighton conference last October won a byelection in the Greater London Young Conservative's executive on Tuesday night. He GLYC Chairman Gary Mond worried? "Of course it's very worrying, but I'm up to my eyes right now and I can't stop."

POOR little Gorm-Gum receives a bit of a hammering from the extreme right-wing group, Tory Action, in its latest eccentric newsletter. One 100 per cent of Tory Action members disapproved of him, describing him as "a monster, a disaster." The newsletter is more direct, it calls him "a creep."

Tory Action also pointed its members as to whom they would like to see follow Mrs. Thatcher. Mr. Dehbit comes out top with 56 per cent followed by Nigel Lawson (35 per cent) and Michael Heseltine with 15 per cent. Messrs Proctor and Teddy Taylor get honourable mentions, with Mr. Prior and Mr. Britton "desply unpopular. Sorry about that, Norman."

Speakeasy

SPEAKER WEATHERILL has been playing his lines again this week, calling Mr. Geoffrey ("Buster") Dickens, Mr. Lester Dickens, for instance. But, poor chap, he must not forget for he sent down with mumps yesterday — no laughing matter in a grown man. Also, the previous evening he attended the Royal Banquet in honour of the Hastings Herald. He sat between Princess Margaret and the Duchess of Norfolk.

THE HILDA MURRELL publishing industry is cranking into gear. Just six weeks after he was commissioned to produce a book about the murder of Miss Mary West Country, journalist has published his account of the affair: Death of a Rose-Grower. Now the Council for the Protection of Rural England promotes publication of Hilda Murrell's Botanical Diaries — "of unusual literary quality," it says.

Hot tips

THE eight-strong short-list for the Koestler Chair in Parapsychology has now been drawn up. The hot tips: Dr Sue Blackmore, visiting fellow at Bristol; Dr John Palmer from Cambridge; Dr Peter Fenwick of King's College, London; and Dr Rupert Sheldrake from Clare College, Cambridge. The surprise omission is Dr. Lyall Watson, one tipped as favourite.

JOHN (Salwyn) GUMMER bounced into Strasbourg this week, bringing encouragement and good cheer from Blighty to the Tory MEPs. He made himself available for a whole hour for any members with particular problems to be unburdened. Not for nothing is he called the Father of his people. But the Eurobarometer is a contentious lot. Out of 46 Tory MEPs, only two turned up to Gummer's surgery.

Alan Rusbridger

Donald Wintersgill on Mantegna in the saleroom

How many millions fetch a Magi?

ONE of the greatest Old Master paintings in private hands in Britain comes up for auction at Christie's tonight. It is the Adoration of the Magi by the great Andrea Mantegna, and was done in about 1500.

The future home of the picture depends on money. Christie's have forecast, for example, that one estimate reaches £10 million.

A likely buyer is the immensely-rich Getty, Museum of Malibu, California, which was established and endowed by the late J. Paul Getty, and which has the power to buy just about anything that comes on the market. But the Getty does not want to upset the market and European sensitivities by paying huge prices.

A clutch of other American museums and galleries, worried by the power of the Getty, might buy it. They include the Metropolitan Museum, New York; the Cleveland Museum, Ohio; the Kimbell Foundation, Fort Worth, Texas; the National Gallery, Washington; and the Norton Simon Foundation of Pasadena.

Also in the running are American and other private foreign buyers, for example Mrs. Barbara Johnson, heiress to the Johnson and Johnson pharmaceutical fortune; Baron von Thyssen, host of a German steel fortune; and "unknowns" who may suddenly decide to buy the painting and with it a tiny slice of fame.

Also in the race, in a sense, is Britain itself. A British public collection could, after the sale, step in and try, under the rules of the export of works of art, to "pre-empt" the export by offering the price paid at auction. The irrepressible Mr. Dehbit, director of the National Gallery of Scotland, has been making noises about raising funds for the purchase under this system. If a matching offer of money was made, an export licence would be refused.

And yet another figure is there: the owner of the painting, the immensely rich Marquess of Northampton, owner of Castle Ashby in Northamptonshire and Com-



Detail from Mantegna's Adoration of the Magi

ton Wyntages in Warwickshire, and of many fertile acres. Lord Northampton may have put a very high reserve on the painting. In that case, the race could be between one bidder and the reserve price, not between two bidders.

The auction will be held in Christie's Great Rooms, and about 220 people will have seats. Only the auctioneer and the people around the rostrum, facing the audience, will be able to see some of the bids. Most will be there for the theatre — perhaps only four people will do any bidding. The auctioneer will be able to take other bids from the telephone, either from overseas audiences in other rooms, or from bidders abroad.

On this occasion, a dealer who has the winning bid will

hardly be able to make the claim that dealers so often make — that they bought it "for stock." No dealer, not even Willemstein, the biggest name in the world, could afford to hang on to such an expensive item as the Mantegna and wait for a buyer to come along.

But it is part of the theatre of the auction rooms that dealers who have bought "on commission" for someone claim that the item is for stock. It gives the impression of great resources. It also protects the real buyer who wants to remain anonymous.

And what if the Mantegna fails to reach its reserve and is "bought in"? Then a deal can be done quickly, more or less behind the rostrum, between Lord Northampton and the last bidder in the running.

The range of guesses in the press office sweepstakes at Christie's is wide, which shows that every auction of this kind is a gamble.

The curious thing about the art market at this level is that it is propped up invisibly by the taxpayer. Americans who give or bequeath great works of art to public collections gain not only social prestige and a kind of immortality, but tax benefits. The Getty's hundreds of millions of dollars are tax-exempt. Almost all European governments subsidise purchases by their public collections, either directly by grants or indirectly by tax benefits or both. The Mantegna, without this invisible prop, would be worth only what a wealthy private collector would pay for it and that might be a lot less than £1 million.

PETER HETHERINGTON on the Scottish TUC

Unions' tartan army fades behind rhetoric

THE CURRENT issue of the Scottish Miner, a lively tabloid that once set the tone for a left-wing trade union movement, carries a desperate plea across its front page: "Let justice be done."

Not so long ago that movement, gathered under the umbrella of a fiercely-independent Scottish TUC, boasted that it could bring the faithful on to the streets in their thousands and briefly paralyse Scotland for the right cause.

Even a tough speech by Mr. Mick McGahey, the Scottish miners' leader, was guaranteed to send shock waves through the City. This week, a reflective Mr. McGahey, beaten up outside his home last month, merely attempted to put the miners' strike into the right historical context. It was, he said, about preserving jobs, communities, and protecting the energy resources of Britain. It was not about toppling governments — "the Tories are too cute for that."

Now the movement is facing what has been described as the greatest injustice since the collapse of the 1926 miners' strike, and it is powerless to act. The Coal Board in Scotland, unlike its English counterpart, refuses to reinstate any of the 207 miners sacked during the 12-month pit strike. In spite of pleas from most political parties, church leaders, Conservative lawyers, and three chief constables. Many were dismissed for relatively trivial offences, while in some cases it seems the board was determined to weed out union activists — three-quarters of those sacked are either union officials or were members of strikes committees.

The Scottish TUC, meeting in Inverness this week, naturally condemned such victimisation with all the rhetoric at its disposal, but there is no doubt that many delegates would like to put the pit strike behind them.

But they can't. The strike is lodged deep in the subconscious and its lessons run



Mick McGahey: the Tories are too cute

through debates. When a young trade council delegate calls for stronger industrial action to protest about unemployment the general secretary of the STUC, Mr. Jimmy Milne, who retires at the end of the year, jumps to the microphone to caution sternly: "The general council will not embark on that course of action unless we can deliver the goods. . . . It has been too long along this road before."

Mr. Milne realises that the once influential Scottish TUC is not only on the defensive as never before, it is also, like its English counterpart, losing members at an alarming rate.

Over the past six years, membership has dropped off sharply in Scotland by 125,000 from a peak of 1.09 million down by 18,000 over the past year alone. Equally alarmingly, trade unions in Scotland now represent only 45 per cent of the working population — a

10 per cent drop since 1979. This is hardly surprising, since 100,000 jobs have been lost in manufacturing industry during that period north of the border, while the unions are simply not picking up members in the new, high technology and service industries. Scotland may have the highest concentration of semi-conductor manufacturers in Europe, but few of the 40,000 workers in "Silicon Glen" are unionised.

The general secretary-designate of the STUC, Mr. Campbell Christie, currently deputy general secretary of the Society of Civil and Public Servants, recognises that the movement has a battle on its hands to gain acceptability in the new sectors.

Mr. Christie, aged 47, is well aware that his battle will not only be against individual industries, but also against a powerful industrial establishment which is now covertly selling the virtues of a "union-free environment" in Scotland. His own SCPS members at the Scottish Development Agency, which helps promote Scotland abroad, have already expressed great concern about the SDA's practices, he says.

When he does take over, early next year, Mr. Christie will find the coal industry in Scotland further cut back, with perhaps only six collieries, or less, in production and the workforce halved to 6,000 since the end of the miners' strike. The battle to preserve the threatened Ravenscraig steel works, at Motherwell, will also be in full swing again.

Heavy industry, in short, will be in further decline. Only the Scottish teachers, now the militant vanguard of the Scottish trade union movement, will probably still be staging increasingly bitter selective strikes. Their leader said yesterday that the action could last until the next general election. By then it could be the white-collar unions who will be leading the way.

DAVID HENKE reports on Michael Meacher's benefit conference

Severe foot-in-mouth outbreak

THE enduring capability of the Labour Party to shoot itself in the foot is amply illustrated this week by the debacle of its launch of a new initiative on benefit reform.

In the space of just 45 minutes at a Commons press

conference, Mr. Michael Meacher, the party's social services spokesman, managed to turn a potential devastating attack on the party's record on benefit policy into an own goal shattering the nation's precious mortgage tax relief to the joy of the Tory party and press.

The conference had been billed as Labour's initiative to pre-empt Mr. Norman Fowler, who, as Social Services Secretary, will next month unveil the biggest reform of the benefit system since Beveridge.

These proposals — since they are bound to contain elements — are not expected to be universally popular. Mr. Meacher, with the approval of Mr. Kinnoch, wisely set up his own benefit reviews, covering pensions, child benefit, housing benefit and mortgage tax relief, supplementing the benefit and unemployment benefit.

These reviews, although set up through Labour Party machinery, were meant to produce a series of what Green Papers so that Labour could conduct its own policy review. Labour's policy in this area has been particularly vacuous, merely defend-

ing the status quo. There is a wide sector of opinion both in and outside the Labour Party which believes that the mortgage tax relief — should be questioned.

Publication of these reports was seen as a way of showing the public that there would be an alternative to the Tory cuts and it was intended they should fuel a debate inside the Labour Party. In the end, the optimistic thought, they should after approval by the national executive committee and conference, provide part of Labour's first voting strategy for a general election since 1974.

That was until Monday, when in a series of mind-boggling shambolic decisions, Mr. Meacher blew it. Instead of presenting all the findings, Mr. Meacher and his advisers presented journalists with just one of the papers on the abolition of supplementary benefit. The rest of the information — including the controversial mortgage tax relief abolition plan — was mentioned in a short summary.

It appeared afterwards that it will take two weeks before the computer working

out the effect of changes on individual families will be able to provide data for the Labour Party. The press conference has led to hostile reactions from Mr. Meacher's colleagues — some of whom are very nervous about mortgage tax relief — before there can be a proper debate on the proposal.

Mr. Meacher's package is in fact a brave and important statement that should not be brushed aside because Mr. Kinnoch might be frightened of its reception in the Tory press. For the first time a political party in Britain is saying that it is a more noble objective to subsidise children, through big increases in child benefit, than bricks and mortar. The party is saying that future generations of British families should be given greater priority than rows of overpriced decaying semi-detached or badly designed council flats.

Kavata and the Reynolds:

A TRUE STORY

Kavata's family are from rural Kenya — a land where four years of drought have ended with a torrential downpour of rain which has washed away the precious topsoil — poor and sandy though it was.

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☐ (Delete as applicable)
☐ I cannot sponsor a child immediately but enclose a gift of £200/£100/£50/£25/£10/£5.

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MOVIE GUARDIAN

Mike Rygrave reports on what made a gritty director succumb to the lure of Hollywood

Reisz rides out in the West



Jessica Lange: insisted

KAREL REISZ has kept away from Hollywood so long it is a surprise to find him shooting there after 30 years in the business.

Nor would you expect the director of gritty films like *Saturday Night and Sunday Morning* and *The Gambler* to have got involved with a film like *Sweet Dreams*, a movie based on the life of country and western singer Patsy Cline.

Maybe the old Hollywood wouldn't have suited him. Now it does. "What really makes it a good experience is the new generation of technical people here," he says. "They're completely free of the old-fashioned studio bullshit."

"In the old days the heads of department — like music, costumes, editing and so on — were like medieval barons. They told the director what to do — or tried to. Now that's all gone. The new generation are real film-makers. They love movies and they've seen a lot of them. And you have all the gear and all the money when you work here."

Not only is Reisz shooting in Hollywood for the first time, he's directing a script which came to him in a finished form and with the star, Jessica Lange, committed to the project. Reisz normally develops his own pictures, resulting in long gaps between films, but enabling him to retain control. "I'd been working on a project about a boat-load of Italian refugees. Couldn't get the money. *Sweet Dreams* reached me through my agent and I was impressed with the quality of the material."

Sweet Dreams came to Reisz from veteran producer Bernard Schwartz, and at the insistence of Lange, who wanted an "actors' director" and admired Reisz's work with Meryl Streep in *The French Lieutenant's Woman*. Schwartz produced the Oscar-winning *Coal Miner's Daughter* about country singer Loretta Lynn, in which Patsy Cline appeared (played by Beverly D'Angelo) and the production team are anxious to deny that *Sweet Dreams* is another *Coal Miner's Daughter*.

"I don't disown the show-business-biography aspect of our film," says Reisz, "but that's not its emphasis. It's not a page-to-richees story. It's really the story of a marriage. Patsy Cline married a rather bad lad named Charlie Dick, who's still alive (Cline died in a light plane crash at the age of 31). We're really telling the story of a tumultuous marriage, a kind of scenes from provincial life."

Reisz, who was not a particular fan of country music, found locations for *Sweet Dreams* far there foreign than he found Hollywood. Set in the small West Virginia towns where Patsy Cline grew up and in Nashville where she lived as a star, *Sweet Dreams* took Reisz to a very American part of America where "you spend three weeks here and you understand why Reagan is President."

"Like most Europeans, my experience of America was New York and Los Angeles and they are not America. We had a really good time in Nashville. There's a real sweetness about the people — the opposite of what you think of as America — they're very open and hospitable, and just surprised by the big world and all that. It's a hard thing to sit down to a meal and start talking politics. It's frightening. All that absolutely unques-



Karel Reisz: Hollywood suits him now

tioning patriotism that this administration appeals to is right there as an assumed fact of life. Nice people though. Right-wing people are always nicer than left-wing people. A hard thing for left-wingers to learn, but it's true."

Reisz smiles wickedly. A left-winger himself, he was born in Czechoslovakia. His family fled the Nazis to England when Reisz was 12. He was co-editor with Lindsay Anderson of the seminal film magazine *Sequence* and first programme director of the National Film Theatre, before he broke into produc-

tion via documentaries, such as *We Are the Lambeth Boys*, and the *Free Cinema* Movement.

While foreign directors working in America are currently keen not to appear spoiled, Reisz is not. He is the younger British and Australian directors, Reisz did it

first, and perhaps the best in *The Gambler* and *Who'll Stop the Rain*, starring Nick Nolte in the story of a post-Vietnam drug dealer gone wrong.

Reisz has worked sparingly and has an equivocal reputation in Hollywood. He is admired for his direction of actors but considered slow and consequently expensive.

He is touchy about that, emphasising his strict adherence to budgets and schedules. "I think this whole thing about going idiotically over budget is monstrous. I usually go my 7 or 8 per cent which is quite enough." As for his famous rapport with sensitive stars, it worked with Jessica Lange.

"She was very guarded at the beginning," he says, "but then she just sort of jumped in feet first. She had a very complicated difficult job because we're using all the original Patsy Cline recordings and Jessica is not a singer. We went to Nashville four weeks before shooting and she mimed them which is very hard."

Patsy Cline was an extroverted, uncomplicated sort of woman and in most of her films Jessica has played rather neurotic characters. "I think she is glad of the change. This is a very happy time in her life, with (boy-friend) Sam Shepard, and I think she's pleased to do this kind of part now."

Sweet Dreams is a peculiar project because many of the people portrayed are alive — Patsy Cline, her ex-husband, and other family members. And the world of country and western music is a strange world. "You have these people who are enormous locally, in the South and the West, but unknown in the rest of America," says Reisz. They're terribly keen not to appear spoiled, but Reisz is not. He is the younger British and Australian directors, Reisz did it

"Of course, when Patsy Cline was a star, there was nothing like the money in country music that there is these days. The great palace she dreamed of, when you visit it, is actually a small suburban house. But she came from the real urban slums of Winchester, Virginia, so to her it was a palace."

Reisz says *Sweet Dreams* with its 13-week schedule and \$14 millions budget, has been a happy enough experience for him to consider a second Hollywood production, starting next spring.

"I'm going to dare to walk straight into the lion's mouth," he jokes. "It's a Ray Stark picture. When you're dealing with Hollywood on that level, the machinery is so well-oiled you don't kid yourself you're going to retain control. Your hands are out and your fingerprints will be on it. But it will be a Ray Stark film."

The Stark film concerns another real-life show-business star, but is not a biography so much as a study of a relationship. Libby Holman was a Broadway star of the 1920s, a sexy torch singer who married the young, highly-strung heir to the Reynolds tobacco fortune. Later, she was accused and acquitted of her husband's murder in a case that became a national scandal.

Reisz is well aware that Hollywood's sudden enthusiasm for his services is a by-product of the current production boom and the resulting shortage of experienced hands. While he prefers his own projects, he has never been as rigid about independence as his old friend Lindsay Anderson.

"I've no complaints about the way Hollywood has treated me," he says. "My only complaint is physical. As you get older, making movies certainly does get harder."

Tim Palleine reviews John Landis's comedy thriller *Into The Night*, and the other new releases

Laughter that takes you by the throat



Smoker ace Bob Geldof in *Number One*; dancer in distress Michelle Pfeiffer in *Into The Night*; amateur spy Timothy Hutton in *The Falcon And The Snowman*

AS the cinema's lifespan increases, and its past is increasingly exposed on television, its ability to take us by surprise inevitably diminishes. The pleasure afforded by John Landis's *Into The Night* (Plaza, 15) lies in its capacity both to remind us of its antecedents and to ring changes on them.

In his recent comedy *Trading Places*, Landis looked back to the Thirties and Forties for material to modernise. *Into The Night* does rather the same, but the model here is the comedy thriller, and the picture dusts off the time-honoured premise of an ill-assorted couple improvising a successful means of eluding the clutches of hopelessly-minded pursuers.

Now tends to be seen as Hitchcock terrain, from the Thirty-Nine Steps on, but the master held no exclusive rights to the principle, and one could just as readily evoke as precedent such Bob Hope vehicles as *They Got Me Covered*, or *My Favourite Spy*. It is in fact toward a vaudeville style that Landis seems to be leaning (and perhaps his inclusion of a clip of Abbott and Costello is a nod to this).

Into The Night starts in crypto-Hitchcockian fashion with an insouciant young professional (Jeff Goldblum, agreeably uncharismatic) turning his back on boring job and chasing wife only to be waylaid by an imperilled heroine (Michelle Pfeiffer,

agreeably charismatic) and pressed into coming to her rescue. But as the film goes, it increasingly resolves itself into a series of turns, with narrative cohesion and a wild plot about stolen gems taking second place to a parade of bizarre situations and colourful characters.

Landis himself contributes to the charade-like tone by making a jokey appearance as a swarthy assassin, and this vein is extended by a succession of walk-ons by fellow-directors of greater or lesser eminence. I only managed to

twig about half of them, but at least spotting directors makes a change from spotting allusions to their work.

And though the script may be fairly tedious, the realisation is encouragingly streamlined. There is a reassuring sense of no-expense-spared, all the way from the enormous traffic jam engineered at the opening, just to support a throwaway gag, to the splendidly elaborate airport shoot-out that brings matters to a close. In short, this is the kind of film, all too nowadays, to which the description routine applies in its non-pejorative sense.

It was Hitchcock who defined drama as life with the dull bits left out. John Schle-

singer's *The Falcon And The Snowman* (Odeon Haymarket, 15) is a variation of real events, with a good many dull and redundant bits left in.

The film deals with two deluded young Americans who — one out of obscure resentment, the other strictly from opportunism — venture deeply into the spying business, selling secrets to Russia via a go-between in Mexico City.

Without having read the book from which the film derives, one can imagine that a journalistic reconstruction of the peculiar events might be gripping on the page. But they prove, not for the first time, unresponsive to dramatisation. The meandering narrative is hardly aided by a sledgehammer, would-be-

satirical annotation of transatlantic lifestyles (lacking even the novelty value of the director's earlier *Midnight Cowboy*), while the dourly sinister Russians and excitable Mexicans come very much from stock.

Schlesinger has retained his skill with actors, but the performances of Timothy Hutton and Sean Penn (the latter oddly resembling a younger De Miro) look like attempts to build bricks with a minimum of straw. The viewer is left speculating less on what motivated these two dupes as on why anyone should have felt it was worth making a film about them.

Spying also features in the curricular vitae of one of the central characters (Keith Carradine), in Alan Rudolph's *Choose Me* (Screen on the Hill, 15). But since he has a jet pilot, a literary critic and an ace photographer, it is difficult to know whether to believe him. And harder still, alas, to care.

This setting-to-partners among a variety of narcissistic poseurs, chief among them a bar owner (Lesley Ann Warren) and a radio dispen-

ser of advice to the lovelorn (Genevieve Bujold), proves a steadily more incidenting experience. The participants, who prove conspicuously unable to recognise one another's voices on the telephone, go rabbling on and on about their emotional problems and doing damn all to sort them out.

When somebody declares, as feelings get more heated, "I'd rather hear the gun go off than listen to this" there were heartfelt murmurs of accord from several at the press show.

As photographed by Jan Kiesser, the movie often looks splendid, and the decor is unrelentingly modish, including an apartment with walls covered by a mouth-watering display of movie posters. But these only make one feel that it would be better to be watching any of the subjects of the posters rather than the film in front of us. What it boils down to is mainly an expense of spirit in a waste of chic.

At a time when one begins to fancy that snooker might be about to take over a TV

channel all to itself, making a feature film on the subject might look like a shrewd move. Number One (Classic, Haymarket, etc, 15) concludes at the championships in Sheffield, but mainly takes place in an unimpeachably seedy south London, with Bob Geldof creditably impersonating a pool hall layabout, a sort of hustler of Brixton Hill, who is pressured by a devious bookie (Ole Smith) into turning pro, and with bewildering rapidity is contesting the world final.

The writer, G. F. Newman, and director, Les Blair, collaborated on the impressive TV series *Law and Order*, but seem here to be aiming to temper sociological naturalism with a brand of Runyonesque comedy. The tone, however, seems initially too downbeat and sour, as well as insufficiently spontaneous, to exert much appeal.

Later on, the picture takes a nose-dive into sentimentality ("Nothing's straight any more," laments Alison Steadman's gold-hearted brass on finding that Geldof is expected to lose) and maladroitness, with the championship rivals laying into each other around the green baize and two bent coppers making a drunkenly inept attempt to arrest Geldof as he accepts the winner's laurels.

Persuasively though the film is cast and played, the unlikely milieu it describes is not placed in any perspective which might encourage us to linger.

An irrelevant excursion to Blackpool, complete with Tower, only serves to demonstrate how readily British realist cinema falls back on a gamut of ready-made devices.

City of Pirates (ICA) is only the second film by the prolific Raul Ruiz to gain British distribution, and it would be an understatement to say that it fails to whet the appetite for more. What this exotic shaggy dog story brings to mind is a modernised variation on those French experimental films of 60 years ago, made by such as Jean Epstein and Germaine Dulac, which for donkey's years were staples of the film societies' repertoire — only at more than double the length and to less than half the putative point.

BRIEFING

Best films

Favourites Of The Moon (Camden Plaza, Chelsea, 15). Idiosyncratic French music by Russian director, recalling the eccentric Gallic cinema of yesteryear.

Dea Giovanni (Academy). Merited return of Lesley's handsome and strongly cinematic approach to filmed opera.

Wetherby (Curzon West End). Gripping, and strikingly visualised, feature about David Hare, strongly performed by Vanessa Redgrave and others.

Dance With A Stranger (Baker St Screen). Atmospheric if not quite satisfactory dramatization of the Ruth Ellis affair, with commanding performance by Miranda Richardson.

Country (Release). Impressive if somewhat sentimental account of American farming hardships, benefiting from natural settings.

Gates Of Heaven (Friday, C4, 3 pm). Impressive documentary, melancholy but unimpaired, about an American cemetery.

A Man Called Horse (Friday, BBC-1, 10.20). Good-looking western (1970) with Richard Harris being initiated as a Sioux and outdoing Brando in the man-of-steel role.

Ceiling Zero (Saturday, C4, 1.55). Characteristically terse aviation picture from Howard Hawks (1935) with Cagney and Fat Brian inimitably in attendance.

The Last Flight (Saturday, C4, 3.45). Distinctive *Lost Generation* movie, made by William Dieterle in 1931 and in many ways ahead of its time.

The Onion Field (Saturday, BBC-1, 10.35). Powerful downbeat cop story, scripted by Joseph Wambaugh and based on a real case.

River Of No Return (Sunday, BBC-2, 7.45). Pleasing journey-western with Monroe and Michum, unexpectedly directed by Otto Preminger.

One From The Heart (Tuesday, BBC-2, 9 pm). Coppola's strange musical, full of remarkable settings and video-tech.

Carson City (Wednesday, BBC-2, 5.30). Entertaining nonsense western (1952) with Raymond Massey a worthy adversary for the immutable Randolph Scott.

Special interest

THE WARREN Beatty and Nikita Mikhailov seasons continue at the National Film Theatre. To mark the 80th anniversary of Jean Vigo's birth, his complete works are being shown on Monday and Tuesday. The Sunday Film Market, a quarter of films from the feminist distributor Circles, just celebrating its fifth anniversary.

Until Sunday, the ICA has matinees of the French animated feature *The King And Mr Bird*. The Barbican Cinema is showing *Lean's A Passage To India* until the end of the month. The Royal Kings Cross, has an all-day, all-night horror marathon on Saturday. Programmes at the Everyman, Hampstead, include Zeffirelli's *La Traviata* and Brook's *Tragedy Of Carmen* in a double-bill on Sunday.

The Dovecot, Cleveland, shows Woody Allen's Broadway Danny Rose tomorrow and Saturday. And a Hitchcock double-bill, *Rope* and *The Trouble With Harry*, on Tuesday and Wednesday. Glasgow Film Theatre shows Konchalovsky's *Maria's Lovers* next week (not Wednesday). The Duke's Lancaster, is showing *Boeg's Eureka* on Sunday and Monday. At the Triangle, Birmingham, Stop Making Sense can be seen from tomorrow until Wednesday, with extra weekend performances of this Is Spinal Tap. The Queen's Theatre, Belfast, has *The Bostonians* until Saturday, and *The Return Of Martin Guerre* from Monday to Wednesday.

Tim Palleine

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BBC Kaleidoscope

"SUPERB"
Sunday Express

"an enormous delight"
Sunday Times

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Times
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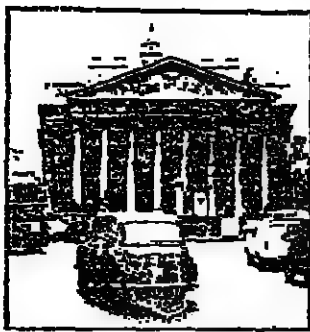
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Jacob Rothschild gives the City a lesson on how to win bids and influence people



NOTEBOOK

Hamish McRae

IF THE Entrad bid for Tootal fails it will probably be thanks to Jacob Rothschild.

Yesterday's disclosure that J. Rothschild and Co had over 6 per cent of the Tootal

equity is fascinating at a number of different levels. For a start, that sort of stake may of itself be enough to swing the bid one way or the other in a finely balanced takeover.

But there is also the fan club effect: the very fact that J. Rothschild has faith in the existing management, which it does, will at the margin tip some institutional shareholders that way. The announcement was dictated by normal disclosure rules, but it is timed precisely to tip the scales.

Next, the intervention is an example of the market judgment for which Jacob Rothschild himself is famed: the ability to see that the market has functioned imperfectly in this instance and to create the opportunity for a "heads I win, tails I win" bet. If Entrad succeeds there is a modest profit on the investment; if it fails, J. Rothschild has acquired a chunk of a decent company

at a sensible price. Further, the fact that this sort of opportunity is available points to a market imperfection. Here it is very difficult to see any industrial or managerial logic for the takeover, but say such bid shows a potential profit for existing shareholders.

The resale bid-in-the-hand argument for selling is a powerful one. It is sales in the market which both enabled Entrad to pick up the vast bulk of its present holding and created the opportunity for J. Rothschild to buy this strategic stake.

In the US this sort of opportunity occurs much more often because under US rules a bidder is not allowed to buy shares in the market. That leaves enormous scope for other purchasers to do so, with either benign or hostile intent. It will be interesting to see whether this intervention here becomes the precursor

of other similar events. In this instance, it will probably tip the deal the right way.

Boot works

THE DEE bid for Booker McConnell, which closes on Friday, gives another good example of the way in which a bid does wonders for a sleepy company's management. Go back a year and Booker presented itself as a pretty clear-cut case for the sanction of the takeover. Dee had, and has, a proven cure record for retailing and clearly had the capacity and will to sort out the bottom

Now all is different. Dee remains what it was, but Booker has done all the things which it should have done before Dee appeared. The boot under the bottom has worked.

So what should shareholders do? It might seem a bit tough on Dee to thank it

nically for its acting in the national interest of improving — by proxy — one of British commerce's less than shining lights, and then hope that the bid does not succeed. But Dee has made a jolly good profit on its shares, which should be some reward. But the fact remains that — in the time given by the Monopolies Commission — Booker has done enough to justify its continued independence. Shareholders should stay with it.

Share poser

SHOULD the employees of Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bank which advised on the plank of the Telecom bid, have been allowed to buy shares in it?

The shadowy trade spokesman, Bryan Gould, had asked for the government to disclose how many shares had

been bought and what profit individuals at Kleinwort had made on the issue. Yesterday Geoffrey Exton, the trade minister, confirmed that the Kleinwort team had themselves bought shares, but refused to give further information on the grounds that they were in exactly the same position as any other members of the public who wanted to apply.

Mr. Gould was naturally upset and accused the government of giving the "green light" to merchant bankers to make a private killing. The same time as giving advice on handling privatisation operations.

Many people in the City and beyond will find this surprising and will be left with a sense of unease at the obvious conflict of interest which arises, he said.

at most, as large applications were so sharply scaled down. You could even argue that for Kleinwort employees not to apply — as ordinary members of the public — for a share they were issuing would be giving it a tacit thumbs down.

The key question is whether the working for Kleinwort would give an unfair advantage to the share buyer. The only area where it might would be when the selling team would know better than the general public whether the issue was being oversubscribed and so likely to go to a premium. It is a marginal advantage, but it is there.

Balanced news

THE MARKETS are balanced finely today in advance of the US first quarter GDP figures which are indeed transpiring that growth was a lot higher than the 2.1

per cent suggested in the advance "flash" estimate. Then on the face of it the outlook is for continued high US interest rates.

Were that to happen the now widely anticipated further decline of the dollar would be delayed, and we would see a sharp upswing in the dollar.

Since dollar weakness has been the principal force in reducing our sterling interest rates any such kick up would take away the justification the markets see for further base rate cuts.

But it now seems very likely that our own government's finances were in a rather better shape last year than seemed on the face of the Budget at the time of the final PSBR figures. And these may be better than the £10.1 billion estimate made in the Budget speech.

So "bad" news from America may be offset by "good" news here.

Lloyd's syndicates hit by asbestosis claims

Former PCW members to face huge new losses

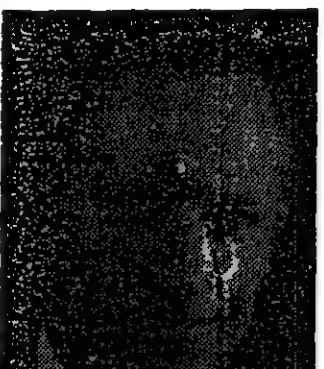
By Mary Brasier

Three Lloyd's syndicates at the heart of the PCW scandal last year, under which £38 million of names' money went missing, are facing a new financial crisis.

Nearly 1,000 names on non-marine syndicates 918, 940 and 137 yesterday received a letter from the syndicates' managers, Richard Beckett Underwriting Agencies (the former PCW agency), warning them of "substantial" provisions in order to meet underwriting losses.

The syndicate members, who may face individual losses as high as £500,000 when the full extent of the syndicates' difficulties are known, are the same people who were last year told that they and others had to find £38 million to meet claims because money held in trust for them had disappeared. The new crisis has occurred not because of suspected fraud but because of the syndicates' exposure to asbestosis claims.

The letter to names states that: "A preliminary annual review of the results of 918, 940 and 137 for the underwriting years of account still open indicates that further substantial provisions by members of these syndicates are likely to be necessary." The review is expected to be complete by the end of the year.



Minet's Ray Pettit

The letter goes on to warn that there may be additional problems for the syndicates from business written in later years. "We are unable at present to form any view of the impact if any on the syndicates' non-marine syndicate 618."

REBUA is conducting a speedy financial review of the syndicates and does not yet know what the final bill will be. But names have already reacted angrily to the news. Under an agreement worked out last year by Minet chairman Mr Ray Pettit and brokers Alexander Howden, names were away at the rights to take any legal action against

the syndicates' managers in order to receive compensation for the £38 million of missing PCW funds. According to one name who campaigned vigorously against the terms of that offer: "This is just what we feared at the time. We intend to find out whether we can take legal action, and if we can the consequences must be to the individual proceedings."

Under the terms of the PCW agreement, the accounts for 1979, 80 and 81 for two of the syndicates were kept open, meaning that claims could still be charged against them. The accounts for remainder of the syndicates managed by REBUA were closed.

Although Minet and REBUA yesterday ruled out any continuation of last year's fraud saga, there is some suspicion among names affected that the shadow of the PCW affair still remains and had the syndicates been properly managed and their risks reassessed adequately before 1982 the new problems might not have arisen.

However, the Minet syndicates are only the latest victims of the wave of asbestosis claims which have ravaged both insurance companies and the Lloyd's market. Merrett Holdings, one of the largest underwriting agency groups in Lloyd's is expected to reveal more of its own exposure to such claims with its annual results today.

Lloyd's names warned

LLOYD'S names on syndicate 895, who include sporting stars Virginia Wade and Mark Cox are to receive a "with strings" offer of financial help from the syndicate's ultimate owners, Lloyd's brokers Willis Faber.

Syndicate 895 faces losses of at least £20 million as a result of heavy claims, and managing agency Spicer and White has already warned names that they may be asked for an extra £40,000 to cover the syndicate's losses for the syndicates 1980, 1981 and 1982 years of account are known. Names have already paid out two previous cash calls.

The syndicate's position at the end of last year's financial year was still being finalised but names are expected to receive a letter at the end of the week offering funds to alleviate their immediate financial problems. Willis Faber has been in contact with the syndicate and it is thought this has now been agreed but with the condition that names sign away their rights to take legal action.

Such a deal would bear some resemblance to the offer put by Minet Holdings and Alexander Howden to names on the PCW syndicates last year. In this instance however Willis Faber is not committing its own money to the deal.

Finance ministers still divided

From Alex Brummer in Washington

Finance ministers from the big five industrial countries are expressing relief over the "gradual" decline of the dollar on the foreign exchange markets but still appear deeply divided over the form and substance of an international monetary conference.

They appeared buoyed, however, at a more enlightened mood in the US on the international negotiations of economic policy as expressed by the Treasury Secretary Mr Jim Baker and in a recent speech by the Secretary of State Mr George Shultz.

This emerged yesterday as ministers from the debtor and creditor countries faced off for the first time on the debt crisis at a summit informal session of the IMF's policy making Interim Committee. At an exclusive dinner for the big

five industrial countries on Tuesday night, they basically appeared ready to offer the debtors the possibility of multi-year rescheduling their debt if they remained under IMF tutelage.

But US officials said yesterday that there was little chance that the creditor countries would accede to demands from the Group of 24 developing countries for an interest free subsidy account at the IMF. A new allocation of special drawing rights, the IMF's currency, there does, however, appear to be a willingness within the American delegation led by the Treasury Secretary Mr Baker to look at an enhanced role for the World Bank.

The arrangements for a new international monetary conference on the lines suggested by Mr Baker at last week's OECD meeting have dominated discussion here almost pushing the debt issue into the back-

ground. The US Treasury says that international monetary reform will be discussed by the Group of 10 industrial countries in Tokyo in June and again at the IMF's Interim Committee in Seoul in October.

But it is making it absolutely clear that the conference it wants to host will be for industrial countries only and that the developing countries will not be invited. This has irritated the chairman of the Interim Committee Mr H. O. Ender, the Dutch finance minister, who like the French clearly feels that any monetary meeting should include representatives of the developing world.

The US has been at pains to point out that its desire for a new round of trade talks under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade is not linked to its willingness to host a monetary conference. It points out that

the Group of 10 studies on monetary reform have been in the works since the Williamsburg summit and are not on the same track as the trade talks.

The Chancellor Mr Lawson, in his intervention, was sceptical about the American proposal to host a monetary conference in the US later this year or early in 1986. He took the view that such issues were apparently best discussed through existing institutions such as the Group of 10 industrial countries and the IMF's Interim Committee.

On the debt issue, British officials appeared to be sympathetic to the concept of a new World Bank agency which would seek to alleviate the political risk in the developed countries. Such an agency to be known as the Multilateral Guarantee Agency has been proposed by the bank's president, Mr A. W. "Tom" Clausen.

Surprise surge in factory output

By Christopher Holmes, Economics Editor

Manufacturing production rose by nearly 1 per cent in February to its highest level since the beginning of 1980, according to Central Statistical Office figures yesterday.

The figure for industrial production, which adds energy, chemicals, food, drink and tobacco, fell back by 0.2 per cent as oil production subsided from the abnormal peak in January, officials said.

Taking the three months to February on the three month moving average, industrial production grew by 1.7 per cent and manufacturing by 0.8 per cent. CSO officials say the underlying growth trend of manufacturing in recent months remains about 2 per cent a year.

production over three months, a more reliable guide to trends than monthly figures alone, is the more surprising since the CSO estimates that the coal strike continued to depress the figure by 3.1 per cent in both periods.

Coal production was gradually picking up through the winter though this was offset by higher input costs of burning oil for electricity generation. As coal output rises further following the end of the coal strike, industrial production should show strong rises.

The February index number for industrial production of 105 (1980=100) is 10.4 per cent higher than the trough in the first quarter of 1981 and now 1.5 per cent below the last cyclical peak in the second quarter of 1979.

However, output rises have been fuelled by extra production from the North Sea so that manufacturing output remains 9.1 per cent below its cyclical peak though 10.5 per cent up on the 1967 trough.

Manufacturing production in the latest three months over the same period a year before is up by 2.6 per cent despite some small industrial losses due to the coal strike, while industrial production rose by 0.1 per cent as oil output offset coal losses.

The latest monthly figures for manufacturing, however, incorporate a "bias adjustment" which adds 1 per cent to the February figure and 1 per cent to the January one, on the grounds that preliminary estimates have in the past tended to understate final figures.

RTZ profits rise £95m

RTZ, the world's second largest mining conglomerate, yesterday announced a £95 million rise in 1984 pre-tax earnings, despite weakness in its leading metal markets and slashed profits from the huge uranium mine it continues to exploit in Namibia in violation of UN declarations.

The strong dollar, better performance from the UK-based engineering companies, and a bumper demand for RTZ's least understood and single most important product, borax, explain the rise in pre-tax profits from £75 million to £170 million in 1984.

Like its bigger and even more controversial rival, the Anglo-American Corporation of South Africa, RTZ controls its world-wide assets in London through a complex tangle of interlocking subsidiaries and associate companies. Attributable profits, which nationally and up in London headquarters



Sir Alistair Frame

coffers, rose from £197 million in 1983 to £245 million in 1984.

Worldwide demand for base metals like copper, aluminium tin and lead rose strongly in 1984. But their average dollar price fell by 7 per cent because of the soaring strength of the US currency. Still, what RTZ lost on mining metals it easily gained back on the dollar earnings generated from its two borax mines in California.

RTZ and the Turkish government evenly control 90 per cent of the world's borax supply, a mined chemical essential to the detergent, glass and glass fibre industries. RTZ Borax alone contributed one quarter of the group's total attributable profits.

More visibly and less profitably, RTZ continued to haul uranium from the Rossing mine in Namibia despite UN declarations that it is acting illegally and is returning a big share of the profits to the South African government. Attributable profits from Rossing were cut in half to £7.5 million. World demand for uranium is poor and the UK government, which is sitting on a huge stockpile, finally ended its long standing contract last September.

Chairman Sir Alistair Frame yesterday praised the excellent performance of the Pillar division which is based on RTZ's light engineering interests in the UK. Pre-tax profits in the UK rose to £134 million (£85 million) attributable earnings in Britain climbed from £27 million to £107 million. Profit-taking pushed RTZ shares down 13p to 641p.

Espley Trust gives up fight for survival

By Mary Brasier

Espley Trust, the property group which has struggled to survive for the past seven months, yesterday succumbed to the burden of its debts and failed to be put in the hands of a receiver.

Company director, Mr Ronnie Wilson, called in last September to save Espley from bankruptcy, has resigned and the assets of the trust have been placed in the hands of a receiver.

Time finally ran out for the company which has conducted a major sell-off of its assets, but which failed to attract a buyer. The trust is now in a liquidation process, with Mr Wilson's resignation and the appointment of a receiver.

ing position of the construction group.

When he first took over at Espley, Mr Wilson gave the company only a 50-50 chance of survival but prospects appeared to brighten as the company raised more than £80 million from disposals.

The fight for survival has been complicated by relations with Espley's founder and former chairman, Mr Ron Shuck, who first launched a bid for Espley through his own private company and then withdrew and then became the subject of legal proceedings by Espley board. Mr Shuck said yesterday that the proposed acquisition of Espley would be continued vigorously.

The only surviving part of the Espley Group is Howard Tenens Engines in Swindon which has not been placed in receivership. It is continuing to operate. Mr Wakeham said that the Espley Board would try to sell off the Howard Tenens business.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rothschild in Tootal move

JACOB ROTHSCHILD yesterday revealed a 6.4 per cent shareholding in Tootal in a move which could determine today's final outcome of the £128 million bid for Australia. Rothschild is opposed to Entrad's terms and will vote against the bid, under its existing management.

In two further bid developments Entrad said that it planned a £20 million placing of new shares in London of its shares in London if it was control of Tootal. Entrad said the decision was nothing to do with the bid but was in response to requests from City institutions. And Tootal was rapped by the Takeover Panel for a weekend press comment saying that 35 per cent of shareholders would back its independence.



DAVID NICKSON (above), chairman of Scottish & Newcastle Breweries, is to succeed Sir James Clesminson as president of the Confederation of British Industry from next year.

FIRST National Securities, the finance house, yesterday announced a £200 million medium-term credit to replace a £180 million credit arranged in 1983 and bring in an additional £40 million of funding. FNS's parent, First National Finance Corporation, recently became the last firm to climb out of the lifeboat arranged in the mid-1970s by the Bank of England to rescue the fringe banks, by repaying a special support facility.

Gold coins usher in new image

By Margaret Dibley, Money Editor

Anyone looking to spend £1,150 can jump on an opportunity on offer for only the seventh time this century. The Royal Mint has produced a limited number of 1985 proof gold coin sets.

The coins have been produced to celebrate the new royal portrait which will appear on all 1985 dated coins. The sets comprise £2, £5, £10, £20, £50 and £100 sovereigns and all are legal tender at their face value.

The full set costs £1,150 and only 12,500 are being issued. However, for those of more modest means a further 12,500 sovereigns and 12,500 half sovereigns are being sold in individual presentation cases for £149.95 and £79.95 respectively. They can be bought from the Royal Mint in London and at the production factory in Llantrisant, Wales. However, buyers should be wary of purchasing them as an investment. The gold content alone is worth far more than the face value of the coins but the subsequent price will be related to the fortunes of gold.

Last December, a rare Edward VIII sovereign fetched for £42,000 whereas hopefuls had thought that it might fetch £100,000 in less depressed circumstances.

Joint effort

Britain's Westland group is to participate in the development of a new helicopter in partnership with German, French, Dutch and Italian helicopter makers. The helicopter, which would be for use by Nato, would be Europe's first joint project by the five nations.

By Peter Large, Technology Correspondent

Mr Alan Sugar, of Amstrad, yesterday confirmed his faith in a continued growth in sales of home computers to be the "truck driver and his wife" with a second model at a challenging price — £339 basic. He said he would sell 600,000 home computers this year and had other computer products on the way.

But Amstrad is now putting a greater sales emphasis on the smaller retail outlets and a much greater emphasis on exports. Mr Sugar criticised the "ivory tower" top people in the big retail chains for reacting simplistically to reports of the computer "boom" collapsing.

Britannia Airways cuts jobs

By Michael Smith, Industrial Editor

About 360 people are to lose their jobs in cutbacks at Britannia Airways, the UK's leading holiday airline and sister company of package tours giant, Thomas.

Britannia, which carries around 41 million holiday-makers a year, is reducing its staffing by 200 below the planned level of 2,500 for the peak summer season. At the same time, Britannia is to reduce the size of its aircraft fleet by selling five of its American-built Boeing 737 jets.

Britannia blamed the cutbacks on the sharp fall in holiday bookings for this summer and the "unfair competition" from state-owned British Airways.

CBI urges changes in 'tax on jobs and profits'

By our Industrial Editor

The CBI is pressing the government to present a budget changes in national insurance payments for higher paid workers, which will cost firms an extra £300 million a year.

The CBI's president, Sir James Clesminson, said: "This is a tax on jobs and a tax on profits, and a very onerous one at that." CBI members have expressed serious concern that the proposed new system will mean employers paying the full 10.4 per cent rate of national insurance contributions for around 11 million workers in the

upper pay brackets. Sir Terence Beckett, director general of the CBI, said the increase would hit spending on research and development.

The CBI is also to press the government to speed up the reduction in interest rates, which Sir Terence said were now standing at their highest ever levels in real terms.

Sir James Clesminson said there was now room for an immediate 1 per cent reduction in interest rates and Sir Terence added: "If interest rates stay up, it will damage the recovery."

Bill 'for car jobs'

A bill to ensure that all cars sold in the United Kingdom should contain at least 50 per cent British-made components was introduced in the Commons yesterday.

Its sponsor, Mr Doug Hoyle, Labour MP for Warrington North and vice-president of the white-collar union ASTMS, said: "The object is to protect and create jobs in the United Kingdom motor vehicle and components industry. I believe this bill is of vital importance to stop further job losses in the UK car and associated industries."

Rediffusion, yesterday launched a dedicated videotex computer aimed mainly at sales and marketing uses on company networks. Mr Mike Aldrich, ROCC's chief executive, said that already 35 to 40 per cent of the firm's business was in videotex — the jargon for information services linking central computers to adapted TV sets.

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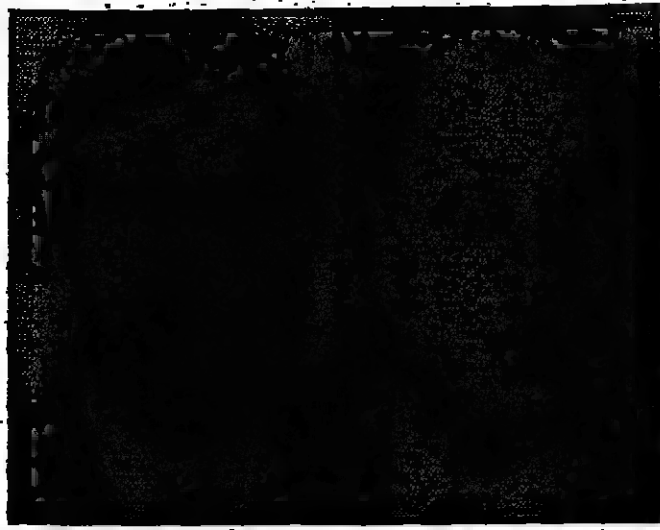
Tebbit pushes pork on Japan

From Robert Whyman in Tokyo

The banning of British raw pork from Japanese tables developed into a bone of contention on Mr Norman Tebbit's second day of talks in Tokyo yesterday. Meeting with Japan's foreign secretary, Mr Shintaro Abe, the Trade and Industry Secretary narrowed down Japanese trade practices that exemplify the way the market here is closed to foreign goods.

British officials said he complained that Japan's certification procedures were impeding sales of British civil aircraft. The ban on imports of British pigmeat by an overzealous bureaucracy is costing Britain a valuable market that could reduce the £2,500 million trade deficit with Japan.

The entry of British pork into Japan is hampered by regulations that exclude meat from any country that has been found to have a health risk, the officials said. Thus while



Shintaro Abe and Norman Tebbit: talking pork

Japan's bureaucrats accept there is no foot and mouth in Britain, they have not given a clean bill of health to Argentina, from which Britain buys beef.

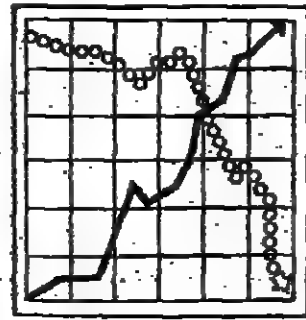
British officials, irritated by this particular non-tariff barrier, claim there is no point of contact between the slaughter of British pigs for export and the processing of Argentine beef for Britons.

Mr Abe, while lending a sympathetic ear, is now thoroughly hardened to foreign badgering. Last week he represented Japan at the annual OECD meeting and faced an onslaught of criticism of Japan's trade surpluses, the toughest of the four OECD meetings he has attended, he told Mr Tebbit. He was only too ready to agree with Mr

Tebbit on the need for urgent action to resist protectionism. Earlier in the day, Mr Tebbit met the post and telecommunications minister, Mr Meguro Sato, and asked that British companies be given fair treatment in Japan's telecommunications market.

The day also included talks with international trade and industry minister, Mr Keijiro Murai, who was asked by a sceptical Mr Tebbit if results could be expected soon from the government's latest package of "market-opening measures".

Will this show go on running?



ECONOMICS

Christopher Huhne

WE ARE now just two weeks away from the start of the Western economic summit in Bonn, and the season for international gatherings of finance ministers and their trade counterparts is already well under way.

Though there will be much shopping of helicopters and revving of policemen's motorbikes, the Bonn meeting, like most of its predecessors, is not primarily geared to taking decisions. If it were, the paucity of monetary policy would be accompanied by a permanent secretariat which could monitor what had been decided, and might stand some chance of seeing it through. It isn't.

The main show, of course, is preceded by an interesting and traditional piece of Kabuki. By December of the year preceding the summit, the United States is usually hopping mad about the Japanese trade surplus. With due respect to the American delirium, in superfluous propositions, this is called "heating up on the Japanese".

By the early part of the summit year, the Europeans have jumped into the action yelling "us too". At this point, two things happen. First, the Japanese take moderate fright and announce the most far-reaching proposals for liberalising their import restrictions ever yet devised by a right-thinking government. (The recent proposals are the seventh such package in four years.) Secondly, the officialist in the American State Department get the better of the

economists, and point out that our trusty Pacific allies are doing all they reasonably can.

The Japanese have the last grin because their trade surplus grows from \$15 billion \$21 billion in 1983 to an estimated \$44 billion last year. But the row is defused by the time the summit begins.

Only one of the by now long series of summits has actually changed domestic policy in a way which could be described as a stab at international economic management: by coincidence it was in Bonn in 1978 that the summiters put together a package which exchanged the American decontrol of domestic oil prices (thus helping to hold world oil prices lower than they would otherwise have been) for some modest relaxation on the European side.

Summits nevertheless have to have a theme, the subject of considerable hand-wringing amongst the sherpas — the senior officials — whose task it is to write a draft communiqué before their leaders actually meet. At centre stage this year, with a few ancillary frills, is what one might call a "neo-liberal" strategy for sustained global growth.

In theory a new round of talks in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade would, if they really succeeded in freeing up world trade, solve a lot of problems. The major debtor countries would be able to sell more into developed country markets.

Inflation in the developed world would be moderated because of intensified competition. If fiscal and monetary policy was not tightened, more money demand would go into real output and jobs rather than wages and prices.

There are also a number of new ideas for tackling the worst of the new barriers to trade, which are not tariffs but quantitative and other non-tariff barriers like phytosanitary standards. Researchers at the Washington-based Institute for International Economics, for example, have suggested a plan for the ungodly catchphrase "retariffication" and

degressivity." The idea is that creeping and insidious quantitative restrictions would be turned into old-style but obvious tariffs of equivalent effect.

No number of ingenious schemes, though, is likely to save the "neo-liberal" strategy unless it is accompanied by other measures for a very simple reason. Gatt talks are reciprocal — you put one concession on the table, and I balance it with another. By definition, Gatt negotiations move at the pace of the participant least willing to put concessions on the table.

This is where the practical problem lies. In reality, both America and the EEC have every political incentive to offer very little. Though

So long as exchange rates stay out of line with realities, currency stabilisation and growth must precede trade liberalisation rather than follow it

the new Gatt round is essentially an American initiative. The private motivation of the administration seems to be to hold off the mounting pile of protectionist demands for protection of one sort or another as successive industries are squeezed by a dollar up 80 per cent in effective terms since 1980.

On the EEC side, high and rising rates of unemployment often concentrated in regions hard hit in part by the growth of competition in traditional industries like textiles by the Newly Industrialising Countries, severely limits the scope for tangible trade liberalisation.

Even a government as neo-liberal as Mrs Thatcher's has proved unable to halt, growing protectionism over the last five years, and it is beyond credence to suppose that it would be prepared to sacrifice towns like, say, Bradford (where, by the way, the 1983 landslide installed a Tory MP) in the cause of dismantling the Multi-Fibre Arrangement. The unreality of this particular route to global

recovery is best underlined by the economic studies of creeping protection over the last 10 years. Despite the Tokyo round of trade talks, there is unanimity that more of world trade is subject to tougher restrictions than was the case at the beginning of the decade.

Francois David of the French Ministry of Trade says the proportion reached 80 per cent in 1980; Sheila Page (now of the ODI) calculated about 48 per cent; and the Gatt secretariat itself reckons between 40 and 45 per cent of world trade and 20 per cent of trade in manufactures.

This is hardly a surprise. One effect of liberalisation is to destroy jobs — whatever may or may not happen in aggregate as other people's real incomes rise — and these people are going to be understandably reluctant to participate in this brave experiment unless they are reasonably assured that they can march into another job pronto.

So long as exchange rates remain woefully out of line with underlying competitive realities and there are also parts of the developed world racked by high unemployment, currency stabilisation and growth must precede or at least accompany trade liberalisation.

So what are the prospects for either? To be fair to the American Administration, its spokesmen have occasionally pointed to the need for tax cuts in Europe to help stimulate growth. Whether, like them, you see tax cuts operating in an essentially classical way to increase incentives or, like the Keynesians, operating to boost post-tax incomes, demand and hence output, matters not; either way (and perhaps in both ways) tax cuts financed by borrowing would boost European activity.

Such tax cuts would clearly be more effective at a European level rather than in merely one country, because they would serve to boost each others' imports rather than leaving one country with a yawning trade deficit. Nevertheless, public spending on investment would be preferable if only because there is no

diminution of its effect through saving rather than spending some of the tax cut.

However, Euro-tax cuts would be better than nothing. The snag is that this does not seem to be the view of either the German or the British governments, without whom such a package is lost.

The second leg of a putative package — currency stabilisation — seems more plausible after the argument of the Group of Five leading industrial countries earlier this year, and the offer to host a monetary conference later this year from Mr James Baker, the new US Treasury Secretary.

So far, the British Treasury has interpreted the American offer as a bone to placate the French, who were hostile to a new trade round. But there is also a concern in currency management: nothing concentrates the minds of American officials on international monetary co-operation more than a sharp slide in the dollar.

There is, therefore, a potential package for the picking which could provide something for everyone in exchange for something from everyone. The Americans would concede more effective currency intervention and a willingness to be more conciliatory of the international community in their domestic monetary and fiscal policies; the Europeans and Japanese would go for tax cuts to stimulate growth and help to close the American current account deficit with a higher level of demand and output in Europe, rather than a larger fall in the dollar.

The question is whether the summiters are yet ready for any such deal. My inclination is that they are not, and that the severe imbalances in the world economy — notably the American current account deficit — could yet be rectified by a collapsing dollar.

One consequence of that, of course, is that the Europeans would find it very hard to sell into the American market, and thereby lose one of the last buoyant supports of the last two years for world growth. Meanwhile, you had better enjoy the theatre.

Fears for export projects aid

By John Hooper, Trade Correspondent

The Overseas Projects Board, the committee of industrialists and financiers which advises the government on the export of capital goods, said yesterday that it was "very concerned" by the government's attitude.

"We are concerned both at the protracted nature of debate within government about support for capital goods exports and at the extent to which this uncertainty is visible to the UK's competitors and can induce doubts about the UK's long-term determination

to maintain a viable and competitive capital goods industry," said the board's annual report.

The effectiveness of aid and justification for support has been under discussion within the government ever since it was challenged by Treasury economists in the so-called Dyett report, published in 1983.

Other symptoms of the government's "apparent ambivalence" were delays in handling projects qualifying for assistance under the aid and trade provision, the curtailment of Export Credits Guarantee Department facilities ap-

plying to project business, and the pressure which the board claimed had been exerted on the ECOD to take a more cautious attitude to "country risk".

One reflection of this intensely competitive atmosphere was the growth of "the overt and covert use of financial support mechanisms". Soft credit, said the board, was now the norm. It supported the government's attempts to end competition of this sort among developed nations, but warned that "any attempt to reduce the UK's defensive capability in this area more quickly than others reduce theirs, would be disastrous."

BT eyes across the sea

By Peter Large, Technology Correspondent

The first transatlantic video-conference service, only two years old, is to close on May 1. But British Telecom says that demand is expanding for its own version, which began a year later. BT is to open services to France and Germany as well in June.

The first service opened in February, 1983, and its operators, Intelnet, said they were now stopping to evaluate the traffic but would certainly play in the "video-conferencing business."

Intelnet is a 50-50 partnership between Grand Metropolitan and the American firm Intelnet. It has conference studios in London and New

York, linked by satellite. The service cost \$5,000 for half an hour at the start. Within a year charges had been reduced by more than half. But intercontinental said yesterday that on some days — even some weeks — there had been no customers, though bookings had picked up recently.

In contrast, the Royal Bank of Scotland is spending \$95,000 a year on a video conference link between its Edinburgh and London offices, and thereby expects to save "hundreds of thousands" a year in travel costs alone. At the formal opening of that link, the bank chairman, Sir Michael Horrie, said it was a key factor in the objective of running a nationwide bank from Edinburgh.

The \$95,000 is the cost of leasing BT lines. In fact there has been an \$80,000 outlay on BT equipment. The key piece there is a computer which cuts the transmission requirement for colour TV pictures from the equivalent of about 1,000 ordinary phone lines to fewer than 30.

BT has been running trials with this version for two years, but the sale to the bank is the first commercial one. BT's chairman, Sir George Jefferson, said the computer equipment, developed in BT's labs, had been exported to 15 countries. But 1990 he expected to see between 750 and 1,000 private video-conferencing rooms among Britain's major businesses.

Preliminary Announcement

Year ended 31st December 1984

Financial Highlights

	1984	1983
Turnover	£m 1174.9	£m 1048.5
Operating Profit		
United Kingdom	54.7	47.0
West Germany	15.5	18.1
Other countries	15.2	9.0
Related companies	85.4	74.1
Profit before taxation	5.1	3.4
Earnings per share	81.3	71.6
	45.1p	39.5p

Dividend The Directors are to recommend a final dividend of 8.6p per share which, together with the interim of 4.4p, makes a total of 13.0p per share for the year (1983 12.0p).

The 1984 Annual Report will be posted to shareholders on 14th May 1985.

RMC Group p.l.c.

RMC House, High Street, Feltham, Middlesex TW13 4HA

Operating internationally in Austria, Belgium, France, Holland, Hong Kong, Israel, Republic of Ireland, Spain, Trinidad, United Kingdom, USA and West Germany.

GENERAL ACCIDENT

Increased dividend reflects continued strengthening of asset base.

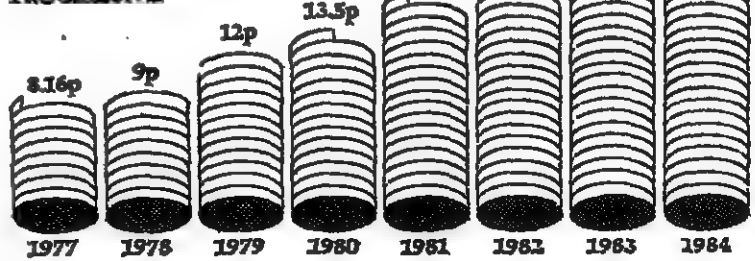
A year ago Mr Gordon Simpson told shareholders:

"Your Board have a commitment to a policy of dividend progression which can be sustained, and they recognise that, in the nature of our business, earnings as traditionally calculated will fluctuate. They are aware too that a part of our total earnings comes in the form of investment gains which are not reflected in our published earnings statement; asset value appreciation, however volatile, is an objective of investment policy, which is designed to generate the maximum total return."

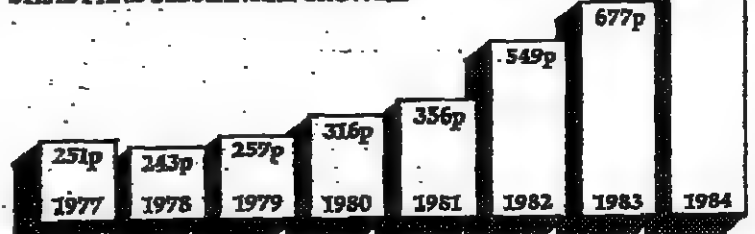
"At a time when traditional earnings are severely depressed but balance sheet earnings have never been higher, it is important to reaffirm our faith in the future."

Gordon R. Simpson
Chairman

DIVIDEND PERFORMANCE SINCE OUR LAST RIGHTS ISSUE IN 1976 HAS BEEN PROGRESSIVE.



NET ASSETS PER SHARE DURING THE 8-YEAR PERIOD SINCE OUR RIGHTS ISSUE HAVE SHOWN STEADY AND SUBSTANTIAL GROWTH.



An unchanged interim dividend of 8p per share was declared on 15th August 1984 and the Board are recommending a final dividend of 12p per share, making a total of 20p per share (1983: 19p per share). This represents an increase of just over 5%.

Our surplus funds increased by £253 million to a total of £1,392 million, equivalent to 828p per share (1983: 677p per share).

RATING POLICY

The structure of our private carrying tables continues to be refined in line with our intention to balance premiums more precisely against claims experience. Competition, however, remains particularly keen and private car rates must harden in the market to match increasing claim frequency. The experi-

ence in commercial motor fleet business is noticeably worse than private car business and a significant increase in premium rates is essential.

In home contents insurance, development of a revised rating structure will reflect more accurately loss, particularly theft, patterns in different areas of the country.

LIFE & PENSIONS

In order to emphasise our strong determination to develop life operations as an important and integral part of General Accident the names of our two UK Life subsidiaries, Yorkshire-General and the English, were changed to 'General Accident Life Assurance' and 'General Accident Linked Life Assurance' respectively on 1st January, 1985.

General Accident Linked Life Assurance entered the unit linked market early in 1985 with a range of unique and extremely competitive contracts. Day-to-day investment management for these contracts has been placed with Edinburgh Fund Managers, in which company General Accident has taken a 10% equity interest.

OUTLOOK

Our capital base is not only undamaged by our 1984 experience, but has been enhanced to a new record level, and I am glad to say again that our total performance over the longer term has been progressive, as has been our dividend record.



1885-1985

During 1985 we celebrate the first hundred years of General Accident. The Corporation was founded in Perth, Scotland, on 16th December, 1885.

General Accident

Copies of the Annual Report & Accounts can be obtained by writing to The Secretary General Accident Fire & Life Assurance Corporation plc, World Headquarters, Pitheavlis, Perth, Scotland PH2 0NL.

To Booker Shareholders



Reject the Dee Bid

Booker's three main activities have very strong market positions, vigorous management and outstanding prospects for growth.

Booker's 1985 forecasts confirm this

- 👍 profit up 22%
- 👍 earnings up 25%
- 👍 dividends up 28%

Dee's bid has major financial disadvantages, offering you

- 👎 lower attributable pre-tax profits
- 👎 lower earnings*
- 👎 lower income

Do not be misled by Dee's claim to offer you higher earnings.

*This is based on Dee including substantial exceptional property profits and on an abnormally low tax charge. As almost all the recent increase in Dee's 1984/85 profit forecast stems from property profits, a comparison based on Dee's original forecast (which did not include property profits of an exceptional nature) shows Booker had higher 1984 earnings per share. Booker has not included property profits of £2.5m before tax (equivalent to 3.4p per share after tax) categorised as an extraordinary item in its 1984 results. Booker's 1985 forecast shows earnings per share substantially ahead at 24p.

BACK BOOKER

Each Director of Booker McConnell PLC (including those who have delegated detailed supervision of this advertisement) has taken all reasonable care to ensure that the facts stated and opinions expressed herein are fair and accurate. Each of the Directors accepts responsibility accordingly.

Hiking the way out of hock



INVESTMENT

Robin Stoddart

JUST LIKE ordinary consumers, nations have to determine whether they are going to live on tick, off their humps or in hock. Unlike most individuals, however, governments can lead a riskier existence, falling deeper and deeper into the red year after year. When too many are called into account at the same time, depression may ensue.

Retail spending in Britain has been running up at high, wide and handsome rates for the best part of three years. Quite obviously, in view of the rash of takeover bids at paper prices that begin to make the national debt look almost respectable, the people behind the people behind the counters expect the rush to buy to continue. The signs are that it will extend from ordinary items like food and new gadgets, such as video equipment, through clothing and footwear to other more durable household items, such as furniture and carpets.

There is limited evidence so far that Britain is making more of the things that the better-off, who are still comfortably in the majority compared with conditions before Mrs Thatcher came to power after the winter of discontent, are buying so avidly. It may be so, and the next few months will probably tell.

with crucial effect on confidence in general and the stock market in particular. The Confederation of British Industry certainly expects output to rise strongly this year. A 4 per cent increase would take production back above previous peaks and would be the fastest growth rate since the last leap forward in 1978.

It is, nevertheless, a sobering thought that the overall growth rate to which Britain now aspires is much the same as the supposedly sluggish performance that the United States has been experiencing over the last few months, after a two-year boom. It is true that US manufacturing output flattened out last summer when Britain's was at last showing signs of life, but the chances

miscreant agricultural protectionism everywhere else, too. Export-led recovery in Europe is a brittle plant, it might transpire.

Quite a meal is being made at present of the frailties of the US economy, though Wall Street has remained as steady as a rock in the face of all the handwringing over spurious statistics, failed financial wheeler-dealers and the falling dollar. The modest rise in the share market in consort with strong dollar bond prices is justified by the benefit to profits arising from the dollar's return to a more reasonable level and the growing confidence that interest rates are headed lower.

Unexpectedly low consumer spending in the US,

'Hiking up the money supply and credit availability does the trick every time. The problem lies in achieving balanced progress'

are that the post-winter recovery is of fairly similar proportions in the two countries.

Since capital investment is obviously a powerful motor of growth, the uptrend on either side of the Atlantic in this sector is reassuring. Building is the most durable and beneficial form of investment, provided that not too many white elephants are created, and there is little doubt now that the US has avoided the European slump in this area.

Exports are often the most important indicator of economic performance, though most notably in the Far East where there is little alternative means of securing greater affluence. On this count the US has its problems and will be increasingly disposed to pass them back to others, most notably Japan, if the overwhelming trade imbalance in that direction persists. America has a very strong case against

in contrast to the records being struck over here, is hardly a sign of weakness, since if that became a problem even the most hick and hamstrung of governments could correct it, albeit at the risk of stoking up inflation too. Hiking up the money supply and credit availability does the trick every time. The problem lies in achieving balanced progress.

Large budget and trade deficits do mean that the US economy is out of kilter, however, and action to correct the situation is long overdue. The odds are that others will suffer rather more than the US in the process. Raw material suppliers, who are often heavy debtors also, might suffer more than most. Such considerations limit the further prospective decline in the dollar, apart from the occasional blow from failed deposit-takers.

On the most likely assumption that US growth resumes

a rate between recent extremes and there is therefore little further call for any tightening of US interest rates. Wall Street should move ahead.

Since Britain's oil output hump has now levelled off and the price is down, the main growth motor of recent years has switched off. Consumer spending and other services will be hard put to maintain the forward momentum unless exports and manufacturing do speed up in line with expectations and the recent trend. A further fall in the oil price in both dollar and sterling terms would impose a big handicap on total domestic growth hopes, beneficial though it would be to the US, Japan and the other industrial and Common Market countries and export demand from most areas.

The balance of payments and budgetary restraints arising from the likelihood of a lower oil price when Iraq and Iran turn their attention to selling more under the reluctance of the Bank of England to allow interest rates to fall back sharply again in line with the recovery in the pound. There is also the desire to see the money supply down somewhat within the new target zone. The strong gilt market and relatively low yields on most issues, apart from the shortest-dated, also provides a golden opportunity for Treasury funding early in the fiscal year.

In contrast to the strong pound and improvement in London share prices in tandem with the drift towards lower interest rates, the Japanese market and yen have taken a tumble. Fears of protectionism will probably continue to ebb and flow for a while, but a much stronger yen would be the first and best free market step towards a solution. And the non-industrial giant of the Orient, China, liberalises its trading practices as rapidly as its resources permit, Uncle Sam is unlikely to go completely off the rails.

The race is on for a stake in Dornier

A RACE to buy a stake in West Germany's second largest aerospace group, Dornier, intensified yesterday as more top companies revealed their interest.

Until this week the luxury car maker Daimler-Benz was widely seen as the top contender for a major stake in the group, which is owned by two rival groups of Dornier family members and has been weakened by family feuding.

But yesterday it became clear that another car maker, BMW, engineering firm Mannesmann, truck producer MAN and electronics group Bosch all want a slice of the company as well.

On offer, according to industry sources, are stakes of 34 per cent currently held by three members of the Dornier family and a further 28 per cent belonging to the estate of the late Anna Dornier, wife of founder Claude Dornier who died in 1969.

Mannesmann's chief executive, Franz Josef Welsch, said in Hannover that his firm wanted at least 25 per cent of Dornier, while Oscar Paul, a member of Dornier's supervisory board, said that BMW, MAN and Bosch had also approached the family shareholders.

Industry sources were unable to estimate the sums involved but said 700 million marks (£180 million) had

been mentioned as a figure that might be paid for a sizeable stake.

But the sources said that only Daimler, MAN and Mannesmann had held concrete negotiations with family members in the last few days. Daimler's talks were at a more advanced stage and it still appeared to have the best chance of buying into Dornier, they said.

Lothar Spaeth, premier of Baden-Wuerttemberg state, is thought to favour cash-rich Daimler to prevent control of the aerospace firm moving from his region. Apart from Bosch, he is the only contender based there.

Mr Spaeth yesterday hosted five hours of talks

bringing together Daimler executives with Dornier family members and their representatives, and Mr Paul said he understood the meeting had taken things "a step further". A joint statement issued afterwards said all had agreed that negotiations should be completed within the next week.

Mr Spaeth has been instrumental in finding a buyer for the shares on offer in an apparent bid to strengthen Dornier's management, which has been severely weakened by the family feuding. Chief Executive Manfred Fischer was sacked without notice in February, but a court this week ruled the decision invalid.—Reuters.

Sun Life: Continued strong growth

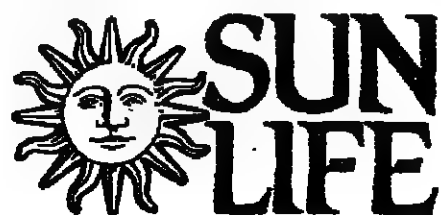
Results from Sun Life Assurance Society plc for the year ended 31st December 1984.

Salient Points:

- Premium income rose by £26m to a total of £416m.
- Total group funds exceeded £3bn for the first time, reaching £3,267m by 31st December 1984, an increase of £530m.
- Transfers of surpluses to shareholders rose by a record £2.0m to £10.9m, 23% up on 1983.

Results	1984	1983
	£000s	£000s
Revenue account transfer:		
Proprietors' share of profits		
Sun Life Assurance Society plc	9,318	8,282
Sun Life Pensions Management Ltd	1,170	500
Sun Life Unit Assurance Ltd	420	75
	10,908	8,857
Proprietors' investment income	1,688	1,608
	12,596	10,465
Expenses	133	111
Employees' Profit Sharing Scheme	498	362
Taxation	301	341
Proprietors' profit for year after tax	11,664	9,651
Balance brought forward	7,299	7,120
Subsidiary company adjustments	2	31
	18,965	16,802
Dividends paid	4,551	3,737
declared for payment	7,020	5,766
Balance carried forward	7,394	7,299

- A record £94m was distributed to policyholders as bonuses, double the distribution made four years ago.
 - The final dividend of 12.00p per share makes a total for the year of 19.78p an increase of 20% on 1983.
- For a copy of the 1984 Report and Accounts of one of the country's most successful life offices, contact: Alan Bell, Sun Life Assurance Society plc, 107 Cheapside, London EC2V 6DU Telephone: 01-606 7788



A major force in British Life for 175 years

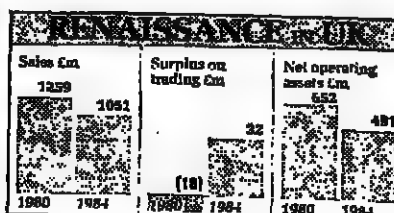
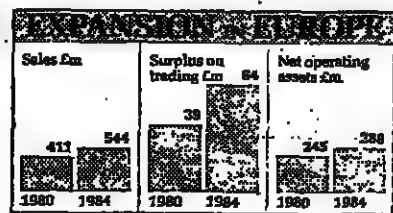
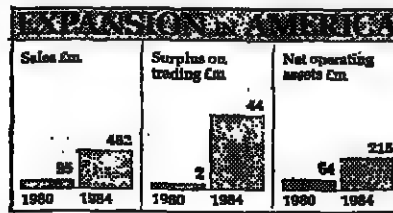
"A world leader in innovation and development"

Extracts from the Foreword to the 1984 Annual Report and Accounts by Sir Trevor Holdsworth, Chairman.

Driven both by unfavourable economic forces and our own strategic necessity, the first half of the Eighties has been a period of quite exceptional change for GKN and we look back on these years to provide an assessment of some of the major changes that have taken place.

The strategic necessity arose from the diminution of the customer base in the United Kingdom, the need to develop products of enhanced technology, the attraction of participating in the growing services markets of developed economies and the opportunity to expand our mainstream activities internationally.

GKN has been transformed from a business with the crude designation of a "Midlands metal-basher" into a world leader in innovation and development of sophisticated new engineering products and in the use of the most advanced technology in design and production.



A NEW SURGE FORWARD

In any business with as long a history as GKN, there will almost certainly have been a number of periods of reformation and renaissance preceding a new surge forward. I believe that 1980/84 will prove to have been such a period.

The financial performance for 1984 demonstrates further substantial progress in the Group's re-orientation: a 36% improvement in the profit before tax, a 38% increase in earnings of the year and a 23% addition to earnings per share are three of the more significant indicators.

RESULTS IN BRIEF

	1984	1983
	£m	£m
Sales	2,180.5	1,974.5
Pre-tax Profit	120.2	88.1
Earnings	48.5	35.0
Dividends	24.2	19.8
Earnings per share	21.4p	17.4p



GKN—the international automotive and engineering group

Further detailed information on the reformation and renaissance of GKN is available in the Report and Accounts 1984. If you would like to receive a copy, please write to: GKN Kean and Nettlefold plc, GPR Dept, 7 Cleveland Way, London SW1A 1JH. Tel: 01-499 3424. Telex: 24611.

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FINANCIAL GUARDIAN

Building cutbacks give RMC rough ride

After a bumper year in 1984 RMC — the world's biggest concrete mixer — is having a rough ride in the first half of 1985 and does not look set to bag much of a full-year increase.

The worldwide outlook for construction does not appear good outside the US and even there some observers feel that the best of the present building cycle is past.

Against this background the group is looking for small growth on sales volumes in some areas and is rationalising its made in Germany where a "sudden and dramatic" fall in the second half of last year held back profits.

The group managed to end 1984 with profits of £10 million up to £15.5 million on turnover of £1,048.5 million. The dividend is up to 13p.

In the UK the group's reorganisation programmes have paid off and thanks to improved efficiency profits rose from £7 million to £54.7 million although on the concrete and aggregates side there was no rise in volumes and none is likely.

Builders merchanting, Hales Containers and aerated concrete all improved their profits. The Great Mills DIY stores group also moved ahead and the store expansion programme this year will add 70 per cent to the floor space. The Thorpe Park leisure group broke even and will make some contribution this time.

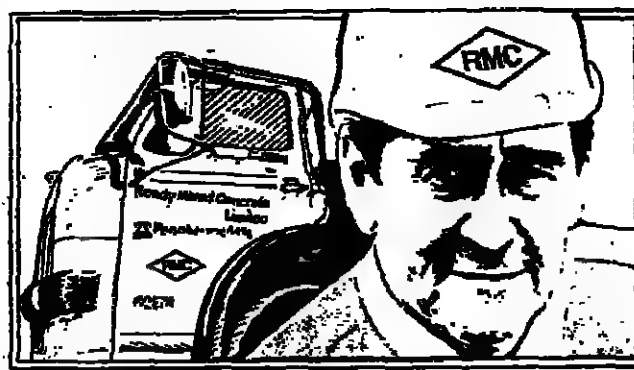
Profits from West Germany fell from £18 million to £15.3 million as Federal spending cuts triggered a fall in activity in the second half which chairman John Camden says "no body expected to be so severe."

The board's response is a wide-ranging programme of cost cutting which will cost £1 million this year. This, plus the poor start to the current year caused by a very severe winter, will be offset by a better second half as delayed work gets done.

The group will also get the full contribution from RWK, of between £7 and £8 million instead of the £3 to £4 million shown for 1984 when it was only half owned. Activity in other countries added £15.2 million to profits, against £9 million a year ago and here much the brightest picture is in the US.

Over there cement consumption rose by 15 per cent in the year and RMC's operations made a "significant contribution to profits." Just how much the board is not saying, but the US now accounts for £102 million of the group's £1,174.9 million turnover. The group is looking to expand in the US but is determined to be selective.

With construction activity looking set for a fall in the UK and no sign of a recovery in Germany the group says profits will be down for the first six months of the year. This wiped 14p off the



John Camden: disappointment in Germany

group's shares but analysts' year saw them end the day estimates that the group could top up at 385p. However some end up with a £1 million or so cautious souls are looking for increase in profit over the full a shortfall or standstill.

Shares buoyant on hopes of base rate cut

THE MARKETS

Lower interest rate hopes were running high in stock markets yesterday as the pound continued to benefit from the weaker dollar. Although the Bank of England was still signalling caution in the money markets, most dealers were expecting another base rate cut before the end of the week, perhaps after the GNP figure this afternoon.

The mood encouraged institutional investors to return to the market and most sectors saw some substantial increases.

Once again stores were in the limelight, helped by more good profits news and continued takeover speculation. Debenhams, which fell back on Tuesday on rumours that Mr Gerald Ronson had sold his near-5 per cent stake, rallied 14p to 250p. The results are scheduled for May 8.

Foods were also to the fore, stimulated by recent expansionary moves by Tesco and Associated Dairies. Banks rebounded sharply after a period in the doldrums brought about by the Barclays cash call. NatWest reflected the trend at 385p, up 27p.

Investor anxiety over insurance was again centred upon Commercial Union, which ended unchanged at 257p, after extremes of 252p and 253p, as the bid failed to materialise.

Government stocks reflected cheaper money hopes, with rises to three-eighths. Leading industrial were mainly 2p to 1p firmer, but ICI jumped 16p to 752p ahead of first-quarter figures next week.

Cheerful company statements supported the engineering sector. Electrolux returned to favour and oils reversed early falls. Explorers were particularly firm with Lasso up 14p to 325p after an encouraging Indonesian drilling report.

Building issues edged ahead, BAXC plunged 10p to 345p after the warning of lower first-half profits that accompanied the annual results. However, the shares quickly rallied to 368p, up 10p, following an analysts' meeting which proved to be slightly more optimistic.

Insurance brokers were earlier behind the weaker dollar. They were particularly dull on news of further provisions to cover underwriting losses. The shares closed 17p down at 255p.

Supermarkets continued in demand with Kwik Save up another 8p to 188p and Wm.

Morrison 10p higher to 250p. Bid rumours put another 6p on Woolworth at 850p (after 855p). MFI gained 10p to 233p, while Associated Dairies improved 2p to 156p. Unigate rose 4p to 158p on a broker's circular.

Comment on Tuesday's figures was good for 11p on Australia Reed A at 123p, and for 5p on J. Hephworth at 189p. Annual profits some 53 per cent higher lifted Owen Owen 3p to 188p. Elam gained 4p to 180p in the wake of 25 per cent profit growth for the year.

Elsewhere, NEI and APV both reported lower profits, but were comforted by the accompanying statement on prospects. NEI rose 9p to 86p, and APV firmed 8p to 248p.

Main changes: RMC 385p up 10p; Debenhams 250p up 14p; ICI 752p up 16p; Lasso 325p up 14p; NatWest 385p up 27p; Minc 255p down 17p; NEI 86p up 9p; Vesper 37p up 27p.

Turnover for April 16 was: number of bargains 23,431, value £482,212 million.

Paris: French shares inched modestly higher, rebounding from the steep decline of the previous session. Brokers said foreign purchases of French shares were fuelled by uncertainty about the dollar's near-term course. The general market indicator finished with a gain of 0.34 per cent. Advancing issues edged out declines by a margin of 1 to 76. Trading was moderate to active.

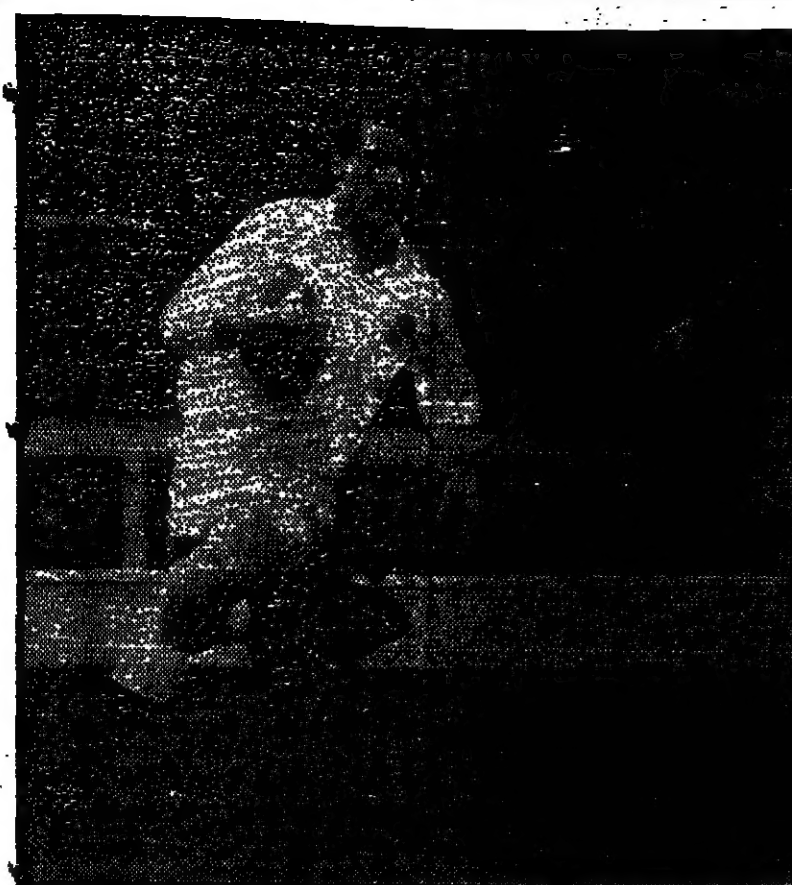
Frankfurt: Share prices closed higher as the dollar's relative stability in foreign exchange trading prompted overseas investors to purchase German equities, brokers said. The "Commerzbank" index advanced 0.4 points to 1220.7.

Tokyo: Stock prices rebounded from the previous session's massive sell-off, but investors were very cautious. Nikkei Dow Jones index: 12,802.06 (12,207.38).

Hong Kong: Share prices tumbled in hectic, moderate trading. Selling pressure was strong. Hang Seng index: 1,505.87 (1,521.30).

FT Ordinary Share Index up 9.3 at 983.5, FT-SE 100 index up 13.2 at 1304.5. FT-SE 250 index: 3,228.25. Account: April 15 to 26. FT All Share Index up 5.92 at 628.58. Sterling index 79.4 (1975=100). RPI 362.7 (1975=100) up 0.4 per cent on year.

Commodities: Copper: Cash £1,217 per tonne, three months £1,210 per tonne, May 1985 £1,215 per tonne, July 1985 £1,220 per tonne, September 1985 £1,225 per tonne, December 1985 £1,230 per tonne, March 1986 £1,235 per tonne, May 1986 £1,240 per tonne, July 1986 £1,245 per tonne, September 1986 £1,250 per tonne, November 1986 £1,255 per tonne, January 1987 £1,260 per tonne, March 1987 £1,265 per tonne, May 1987 £1,270 per tonne, July 1987 £1,275 per tonne, September 1987 £1,280 per tonne, November 1987 £1,285 per tonne, January 1988 £1,290 per tonne, March 1988 £1,295 per tonne, May 1988 £1,300 per tonne, July 1988 £1,305 per tonne, September 1988 £1,310 per tonne, November 1988 £1,315 per tonne, January 1989 £1,320 per tonne, March 1989 £1,325 per tonne, May 1989 £1,330 per tonne, July 1989 £1,335 per tonne, September 1989 £1,340 per tonne, November 1989 £1,345 per tonne, January 1990 £1,350 per tonne, March 1990 £1,355 per tonne, May 1990 £1,360 per tonne, July 1990 £1,365 per tonne, 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CENTRE SPEED... Clough eludes innocent for a spectacular try against Italy.

David Frost — England B 21, Italy 9

Boyd boosts his tour prospects

RUGBY UNION

Considering that this was Italy's first XV and that Italy lost to Romania on Sunday by no more than 6-7, the England B team did well to beat them by such a large score as 21-9 in warm sunshine at Twickenham yesterday.

There were also some encouraging individual performances by the England players. Derek Boyd's belting and kicking were exemplary, and on this occasion he did not miss opportunities to join in attacks. He must have enhanced his chances of filling one of the five vacancies in the England touring party for New Zealand next month.

Neither centre Halliday nor Clough, did his reputation any harm. Johnson kicked five goals from seven attempts, and Moon, once again, looked a very talented scrum half. In the pack it was mainly the loose forwards who impressed, all three looking capable of playing for the full national side.

The Italians, split and split again, were a well-coached side, eager to play fluent at-

tacking rugby. They scored a fine try on the blind side of a scrum shortly after the interval when their full-back Clough ran up to take his scrum-half's pass and put the wing, Aszali, over in the right hand corner. Their other points came from a conversion and penalty goal by Bettarello, a former protégé of Carwan James at Roriva.

England got two spectacular tries. The movement for the first came from a scrum on the left. Boyd joined the line, sped through, and sent Evans racing for the Italian line on the right. Then Clough dodged his way through against the tide, beating several defenders on his way to the posts.

Two conversions and two penalty goals by Johnson left England leading 15-0 at the interval, but the Italians never lost heart and continued to show both technique and flair. They were awarded their nine points, to which Johnson replied with his third penalty goal.

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CYCLING

Graham Snowdon on the Sealink race

Jensen forges ahead

LARS JENSEN, the Danish Olympic rider, was the over-riding favourite for the Sealink International Pro-Am race zig-zagging across Northern England yesterday.

Although Sir Barras (ANC) maintained the home professional's good record of stage wins, Jensen had everything to gain from a race long breakaway on the 54-mile afternoon leg from Ramsey to Streatham in Greater Manchester.

Barras led from the last corner, with 400 yards to go, leading Eddy Schurer (Netherlands) and Jensen down the right-hand gutter and switching over to the opposite side of the wide finishing straight in a desperate attempt to stop Schurer coming through.

The Dutchman raised his arm in a gesture of appeal, but Jensen was happy enough with his third place which put him 72 seconds ahead overall.

Paul Kimmage (Ireland) was the other member of an original break which went within a mile of leaving Ramsey. Although he eventually dropped back to the field, he had taken two climbs to retain his lead in the mountains classification.

Kimmage's team-mate Stephen Delaney came within 200 yards of winning the 45-mile scratch from Rochdale to Ramsey but he was out of the race when he was taken to the hospital by a heart attack.

Argon Jagt (Netherlands), 16, and the youngest rider in the race, was from Jensen and Alan Gormall (GB) and although the two were level on time at that point, Jagt took over the yellow jersey which he was to hold for the rest of the race.

Malcolm Elliott (Sale), the previous leader, came in with the main pack in both stages and dropped to sixth overall.

Wendell International, 2nd stage, was won by Paul Kimmage (Ireland) in 1:01.45. The race was won by Jensen in 2:01.45. The race was won by Jensen in 2:01.45.

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Over The Ocean lands Free Handicap coup

RACING

Richard Barlein

The gamble of the season was landed by Mahmoud Fustok's Over The Ocean in the Ladbrokes European Free Handicap at Newmarket yesterday. The colt started at 85-40, but both Hill's who advertised him at 4-1 in the morning, and Ladbrokes, who put him in at 7-2, laid him to lose over £100,000 each before racing.

Every firm, including those on the course, where he opened at 11-4, regarded him as a thoroughly lost race. It is not often that this normally highly competitive handicap is won in such runaway style.

Over The Ocean, almost lost in the early stages, came storming through the bushes. His French rider, Alan Le Quer, now based at Newmarket, was fully alive to his responsibilities and did not give the horse any side-reins.

He finished four lengths in front of Little Lobbit who looked superb, with Sand from one and half length back in third, almost in line with Prince Sabo and Andreos.

Prince Sabo is going to pay his way in sprints this season for he was giving the winner 10lb and the second 9lb.

This is a new training feat on the part of Olivier Donih, who is quickly making his mark in his second season at Newmarket having been persuaded by Mahmoud Fustok to leave Chesham.

Over The Ocean, an American-bred colt, had won the second of his two races last season over a mile, but was not in the least inconvenienced at being brought back to seven furlongs.

The trainer took him out of the Craven Stakes won by Shaded and worth almost £12,000 to win this race worth £16,466. It was a good switch in every department.

The time was four seconds outside the record and the ground was very dry and fast. Little since Shaded was only

2.54 seconds outside the record the day before.

Free Handicap winners have quite a good record in the classics and most firms put Over The Ocean in at 11-4 for the 2,000 Guineas. There has been further support for Shaded, who is 6-4 with Hill's and Ladbrokes and 15-8 with the 2,000 Guineas. There has been further support for Shaded, who is 6-4 with Hill's and Ladbrokes and 15-8 with the 2,000 Guineas.

On this better ground he came into his own and will now be aimed at the Italian Derby and the St Leger, possibly missing Epsom.

King Of Clubs had to fight hard in the Earl of Sefton Stakes to hold the challenge of Partridge, who was strongly backed to complete a double for Oliver Donih. The favourite, Telegrapher, dropped out suddenly at the bushes.

King Of Clubs, who had earlier won at Donih, was the second son of Mill Reef to score during the afternoon.

In the opening Wad Dutton Stakes for three-year-olds that had never run another Mill Reef colt, Miller's Mate, trained by Michael Stoute, and starting favourite at 7-2, made all the running on the far side of the course, which looked by far the better ground.

Walter Swinburn kept him fully up to his task throughout, which enabled him to beat the well backed Supreme Leader three lengths, followed by Khezar and the second favourite Vin de France.

Hill's put Miller's Mate in at 30-1 for the Derby.

Lester Piggott, still waiting for his first winner of the season, sent off 4-6, Next best: Gold in the Granby Stakes this

afternoon to open his seasonal account, but he still has to beat his old master, Henry Cecil, who runs Abba.

Cecil's most important task of the afternoon is to saddle the three times unbeaten Oh So Sharp for the Nell Gwyn Stakes. So impressed has Cecil been with this colt that until he saw Shaded win the Craven Stakes on Tuesday he was seriously considering running her in the 2,000 Guineas.

She is already down to 9-4 for the 1,600 and is up against some smart opposition today. If she can beat Bella Colera and Oh Sympatica, both of whom are unbeaten, and Charge Along, winner of her only race this season, Oh So Sharp will stand at even money for the first classic.

Everyone connected with the colt is confident of victory, but it is not guaranteed to leave Shaded's owner two to three. We know Oh Sympatica has improved since winning last season and I would rather back her wayward and leave Oh So Sharp to prove herself.

Although Dick Herr's horses have not yet won they have been running just behind the winners on several occasions and Gay Captain is expected to set him off in the Gerry Feilden Stakes.

Henry Cecil runs both Slip Anchor and Vertigo and it would not be surprising if Tuesday's turn-up when his outsider ridden by Paul Eddery beat Steve Causton's mount is not repeated.

Slip Anchor, who really has better form than Vertigo, Ice Attack's turn will come, but he may have too much to do here and I expect to see Gay Captain ride the spirits of the injured Dick Herr.

The Yorkshire trained Peddits Well has a fine chance in the Ladbrokes Bold Boy Sprint, where she looks well handicapped.

Mr Music Man will be having his fourth race of the season in the Tom Caxton Homebrew Apprentice Handicap. He has two credits and a victory in his second of the 11-year-old looks set to record another victory.

RICHARD BARLEIN'S SELECTIONS: Nap: RAPID ACTION (Chapstow, 3/5); Next best: SYMPATICA (Newmarket, 3/10).

Stoute and Cecil should clean up

It may seem premature at this stage to start talking about the trainers' championship, but from what we have seen so far this year Michael Stoute is certainly to be making a strong bid for the title at present held by Henry Cecil.

Both should add a few thousand pounds to their tally this afternoon at Newmarket when I expect Cecil to score with Abba (2/5), and Pizarro's Hawk (4/6), while Stoute can win with Marooned (2/35) and Les Ares (3/40).

Abba was Cecil's initial winner of the season at Nottingham on Easter Monday. She did not win in very high com-

pany that day but her smooth 24 lengths success forecast better things and she should take care of her four opponents this afternoon on known form.

Oh So Sharp is favourite for the 1,000 Guineas, the strength of her three unbeaten runs in top class last season and reports of her home gallops indicate that she has trained on in equally impressive style. If that is so, the victory she won in 1984 at Newmarket over Helen Street and shorter still further in the 1,000 betting.

Cecil fields the likely favourite for the final event—the homebred Bold Boy Sprint. In Perrel he ran a promising second to Derby hope Khezar

in his only run last year and will be ridden by stable jockey Steve Cather today. But Pharaoh's Hawk has been working really well and could upset his better backed stable-mate in the way of d'Arenberg, topped kindling here on Tuesday.

Marooned, the first of Stoute's likely winners, looks capable of taking the Tom Caxton Homebrew Handicap in the hands of the capable young Kevin Bradshaw, while Pharaoh's Hawk is working well enough to warrant support against the more experienced Cecil runners, Slip Anchor and Vertigo, in the Gerry Feilden Stakes.

DAVID HADERT

CHEPSTOW

2.15 Petrada 2.45 Common Farm 3.15 Persian Knight 3.45 Air Command 4.15 Impressive Reward 4.45 Gauthier

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NEWMARKET

2.00 Abba (nb) 2.35 Marooned 3.10 OH SO SHARP (Nap) 3.40 Les Ares 4.10 Peckitts Well 4.40 Pharaoh's Hawk

JACKPOT AND PLACEPOT ALL SIX RACES • SHORTER RACES: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th, 101st, 102nd, 103rd, 104th, 105th, 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, 110th, 111th, 112th, 113th, 114th, 115th, 116th, 117th, 118th, 119th, 120th, 121st, 122nd, 123rd, 124th, 125th, 126th, 127th, 128th, 129th, 130th, 131st, 132nd, 133rd, 134th, 135th, 136th, 137th, 138th, 139th, 140th, 141st, 142nd, 143rd, 144th, 145th, 146th, 147th, 148th, 149th, 150th, 151st, 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